

Gloria to CEOs: Give poor youths jobs

STORY ON PAGE A2

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Peso hits 52.70 to \$1
- BUSINESS / B1
- Quiet Mayon belies danger
- NEWS / A3
- Milosevic: Trial a Nato revenge
- WORLD / A9
- Indon cop chief defies Wahid
- WORLD / A12

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2001

34 PAGES

3 SECTIONS

VOL. 16 NO. 205

P15



GMA gives ₱10B to AFP

Jeepney drivers seek 50¢ fare hike

BY RONNELL W. DOMINGO,
CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
AND NELSON F. FLORES

A TRANSPORT group announced yesterday that it would seek a fare increase of at least 50 centavos after the country's oil refiners raised their prices for the second time this year.

Petro Corp. and Caltex Philippines raised the prices of their petroleum products by 37 to 38 centavos per liter a day after Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. increased its prices by the same amount.

The militant Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operetors Nationwide (Piston) said that a 50-centavo increase in jeepney fare would be barely enough to cushion the effects of the oil price increase on the public transport sector.

"This latest increase is too much for us," Piston chair Medardo Roda said.

On May 23, the oil companies raised their prices by 42 to 49 centavos per liter.

"The President should do something about this. (The situation) is much worse now than during the time of Estrada," Roda said.

But the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (Fejodap) said it was not inclined to ask for a fare increase because of its negative impact on the economy.

The Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is currently hearing the petition of another transport group, the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organizations-Association of Concerned Transport Operators (PCDO-ACTO), for a fare increase. The group filed the petition after Caltex raised its prices in May.

Earlier in the day, members of JEEPNEY/A16



LARGER-THAN-LIFE mural of President Macapagal makes an arresting backdrop to the marching officers and men of the Philippine Air Force as part of its 54th anniversary rites on Monday.



Ador story sparks network war

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN
AND LEAH SALTERIO

FOR GIVING interviews to only one radio station, the former civilian agent known only as Ador has sparked some more verbal swordplay between network rivals ABS-CBN and GMA-7.

The latest dueling

ADOR STORY/A15

'Ador' wants new test; Ping seeks probe

BY JEROME ANING,
ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

"ADOR," a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, last night demanded to take an "independent" polygraph test witnessed

by representatives of the press, fearing that he failed one administered earlier yesterday at the National Bureau of Investigation.

Ador (not his real name) voluntarily took the lie detector test and underwent another round of interrogation in the hope of bolstering his claims that Sen. Panfilo Lacson

and his top aides had hatched a plot to destabilize the Macapagal administration and had ordered a number of kidnappings.

On his first day of work as a senator, Lacson, a former Philippine National Police chief, said he would ask his fellow lawmakers to investigate Ador's charges.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who chairs the national security and defense committee, said he would co-author a resolution seeking an inquiry.

"To (Lacson), it is crucial that the issue be investigated, it should not be left hanging," Biazon told reporters.

In a news briefing, Lacson said

he was determined to find out who is pulling the strings of the former agent, who Lacson alleges is acting on the orders of PNP intelligence chief Reynaldo Berraya.

Lacson said he was sure that Berraya is "very much part of it, but who is behind Berraya is an-

ADOR WANTS/A15

ILUSORIO BURIAL Baguio club security tightened

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The exclusive Baguio Country Club yesterday enforced abnormally tight security, asking for police reinforcements as it prepared to receive the ashes of its founder and chair, 88-year-old Potenciano Ilusorio.

A security guard at the club's gates said that there was a "bomb threat" to explain the unusually thorough vehicle checks.

But as a club member said, the real bomb to watch out for is how the six Ilusorio children and their mother would resolve a long-running family feud that will have serious implications for the 96-year-old country club.

"This is what we expect for a bombshell really, not the scattering of Nanoy Ilusorio's ashes," he said.

Ilusorio died on Thursday and was cremated the same day. His death left unresolved a family



"A BOMB threat," a security officer at the Baguio Country Club explains to the mourners as he bars their entry into the club where the ashes of its founding chair, Potenciano Ilusorio, will be scattered today at the golf course.

EV ESPITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

JDV is it in race for speakership

ROCKY NAZARENO
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

REP. Jose De Venecia is it.

With his unwavering pursuit of the speakership of the House of Representatives in the incoming 12th Congress that opens on July 23, De Venecia is way ahead of his nine rivals in the numbers game. They have withdrawn one after the other in the past month.

Like an ardent suitor who will not take no for an answer, De Venecia, who's the chair of the ruling Lakas-NUCD party, is now reportedly assured of 140 votes.

More significant, President

JDV/A15



Second FRONT PAGE

Gloria to CEOs: Give poor youths jobs

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday asked the country's biggest corporations to help provide emergency employment for some 300,000 out-of-school and out-of-work youth in Metro Manila to keep them from joining mass actions like the May 1 siege of Malacañang.

Speaking before members of the League of Corporate Foundations Inc. (LCFI), the President said she was embarking on a "visible" emergency employment program for the urban poor youth.

She urged the corporate executives to increase employment opportunities for this "special sub-sector" in their companies or in their foundations.

"We are talking here of the *kanto boy* types who, if we cannot provide them with emergency employment, will always be available as cannon fodder for political adventurists," the President said in her speech before the executives gathered to celebrate the second annual Corporate Social Responsibility Week.

The May 1 dawn attack on Malacafang by some 50,000 supporters of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada was mostly made up of urban poor youth.

"(W)e need this instant gratification type of emergency employment to pacify a social volcano," the President said, noting that it would take time to implement the necessary structural reforms to fight poverty and provide "lasting employment opportunities."

The emergency employment program is to be patterned after the one established by the President's late father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, and the Tennessee Valley Authority which American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt set up in the 1930s to cope with the Great Depression.

'Gangs'

"The difference is that we are not doing this for the whole

country, we are doing this for a very particular sub-sector of our society, the out-of-school, out-of-work urban poor youth in Metro Manila," she said.

The President said this group should be organized into "brotherhoods or gangs."

"Not the Sputnik-type gang whose members get together to do drugs, to rape, to rob and to kidnap, but rather work gangs to repair the leaking roofs or broken railings of community tenement houses or clean the drainage canals of the slum neighborhoods or act as sentries in community public schools," she said.

The program is to be implemented by the Department of Interior and Local Government as well as the Philippine National Police.

Reach out

At the same forum, the chief executives of the country's leading corporations presented the President with a manifesto expressing the business community's "commitment to corporate social responsibility and volunteerism."

The CEO's acknowledged that recent events underscored the need for them to reach out and help alleviate the plight of the poor and called on other business leaders to make the same commitment.

They said they would continue to support the government's fight against poverty through the programs of their member organizations.

These programs entail providing



PRESIDENT Macapagal receives a framed copy of the Inquirer's supplement on the League of Corporate Foundations during the organization's annual assembly yesterday. From left are league officers Ma. Cecilia Alcantara, Ms Macapagal, Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Gachitoren, Gley Cuenco and Ester Fida.

JOAN BONDOC

scholarship grants, modernizing schools, medical assistance, setting up entrepreneurial endeavors for the underprivileged, responding to natural disasters, promoting environmental management toward sustainable development and being

sterling examples of corporate social responsibility.

The CEOs also pledged to provide opportunities for volunteer work in social development programs and actively promote volunteerism for the benefit of the

underprivileged.

LFCI is made up of 50 foundations from leading corporations like Ayala Corp., Petron Inc., San Miguel Corp. and Toyota Motor Phil. Its president is Ma. Cecilia Alcantara.

DOJ seeks reversal of live coverage ban

JUSTICE department officials need to convince at least two Supreme Court justices of the merits of live media coverage of former President Joseph Estrada's plunder trial, to reverse the high tribunal's decision not to air the proceedings.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez noted the justice's vote of 8-6 against the petition filed by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodaster sa Pilipinas calling for live media coverage of the trial "was a close one."

The 8-6 decision indicates there was a conflict of opinion among the justices, Perez said.

Perez had earlier announced the DOJ's plan to file a motion for reconsideration of the decision with the Supreme Court.

To obtain a reversal, Perez must convince at least two of the eight justices who voted against the KBP petition—*pante* Jose Vitug, Santiago Kapunan, Vicente Mendoza, Bernardo Pardo, Arturo Buena, Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes, Sabino de Leon and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

Six justices voted in favor of the KBP petition.

Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago was on leave. In voting against live media coverage, the high court noted that television "can work profound changes in the behavior of the people it focuses on."

Instead of allowing live coverage, the SC said it would be better if Estrada "receives a verdict solely on the basis of a just and dispassionate judgment."

Perez said there is a need to "reiterate the right of the public to know what is going on."

"We are not talking of covering the trial for the sake of coverage but of the people's constitutional right to public information. We will point out that there is a need for full discussion," Perez said.

"We are willing to adopt the suggestion (that)

only one camera and one tape recorder would be used to cover the trial," he said.

The SC decision was seen to favor Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, who stands accused with him in several cases.

Yesterday, a congressman allied with Estrada filed a bill prohibiting "unnecessary publicity" of pending investigations and court proceedings.

Rep. Gilbert Teodoro (NPC, Tarlac) filed House Bill No. 184 which "provides for the rights of the accused and persons under investigation for the commission of a crime."

According to Teodoro, "there is an urgent need to codify a comprehensive set of safeguards for the protection of every person accused, arrested or under investigation for the commission of a crime."

While most of the provisions in Teodoro's bill already exist in criminal procedures and rules of court, it was noted that Article 11, which prohibits unnecessary publicity, was a new proposal.

"Without prejudice to the principle of a free press and the public's right to information, public prosecutors and administrative investigation agents shall ensure that their investigations and inquiries are not conducted with unnecessary publicity," the bill proposed.

Teodoro's bill underscored that "the court shall protect the accused from unnecessary publicity by controlling the release of information related to the facts and conduct of the case."

Meanwhile, a leading watchdog group monitoring the prosecution of Estrada said it supports the DOJ's plan to appeal the SC decision.

"The ban should be lifted in favor of the people's right to know," said Plunder Watch convenor Fr. Joe Dizon.

Other groups demanding live coverage of the trial are the College Editors Guild of the Philippines, the Organization of United Solicitors for Truth and Estrada's Resignation (Ouster), Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Pinoys nabbed for corporate spying in Dubai

DUBAI—Emirati prosecutors are continuing their interrogation of 19 people, including an undisclosed number of Filipinos, detained in raids on three British-run corporate research companies, the British Embassy said Monday.

"Questioning continues. Those arrested, including eight Britons, have been detained since the June 26 raids and are being treated well," said the British Embassy in Dubai, a federation member of the United Arab Emirates.

"Consular officers from the embassy are expecting to see them on Monday," an embassy spokeswoman said. "The others held include nationals from India, Jordan, Morocco, the Philippines and Yemen."

RICOH COPIERS
OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY
\$11,000/unit

KAI GEN. MDSE. Tel: 713-7684 / 780-6302 / 780-6304
(INFRONT OF PUPING, REPAIR & ARCHITECTURE BLDG.)
GC-1 BLDG 3GSIS METROHOMES PURSEA STA. MESA, MANILA

AUTHORIZED DEALERS
Luzon: Bocan (042) 552-5377 • Coloma (045) 83-0034 • Lucena (043) 7107-968 • Davao (052) 715-8209 • Naga (052) 684-4984 • Iloilo (054) 65-552024 • Legazpi (052) 82-03345 • Maribaya (056) 333-2793 • VISAYAS: Cebu (032) 421-2399 • Caticlan (056) 251-2205 • Cebu (056) 209-3322 • Tacloban (053) 325-3441 • Iloilo (033) 329-728 • MARANAQ: Pagadian (065) 262-159 • Davao (082) 222-62624 • GMA Studios (02) 320-7473 • Cotabato (084) 421-6239 • Baguio (065) 221-5927

COPYSTAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
PROVEN HEAVY DUTY COPIER REMANUFACTURED

Introducing
CLEAR POWDER COPIER
w/ Reducer / Enlarger
LIQUID TYPE COPIER
w/ brand new drum, blade & roller
for only P20,000

RICOH FT 4430
for only P20,000

SALES: 899-7101 to 04 • 899-7045 / SERVICE: 899-7075 to 76 • 899-7023
MAIN OFFICE: COPYSTAR Bldg. 948 J.P. Rizal Ave., Makati City 1200 • 899-7101 to 04 • Fax: 899-7002
CEBU OFFICE: 178 Sansiangko St., Cebu City 800-0504 • 255-3368 to 69
PAMPANGA: McArthur Hwy., Dolores San. Pdo., Pampanga 200-5055 to 58 • Fax: 963-5059

KNOW SOMEONE IN NEED OF A HOME?
Buyers are welcome
100,000
HELPING YOUR FRIENDS, FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES HAVE THEIR OWN HOMES!
OPEN TO ALL: OFW's (land & sea based), Port Captains, Crewing Managers, HR, Accng & Finance Officers, Teachers, Mgrs, CEOs, Managers, Supervisors, Employees, Professionals, Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, Nurses, Teachers, Entrepreneurs, Sales/Prod Reps, Students & HOME BUYERS.

REDWOOD: IBR, TB, Living, Dining, Kitchen, Service Area, Porch, Roofdeck, Usable Floor Area 81.2 sqm. P6777 - P9797

CEDAR: IBR, TB, Living, Dining, Kitchen, Service Area, Family Hall, Bed, Bedroom, Roofdeck, Porch, Usable Floor Area 81.2 sqm. P1.1M - P2.5M

BANYAN: IBR, TB, Living, Dining, Kitchen, Service Area, Family Hall, Bed, Bedrock, Roofdeck, Porch, Usable Floor Area 81.2 sqm. P1.1M - P2.5M

Call or Text us to reserve a seat in Filinvest Land Inc.'s FREE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MEETING in Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas, Rizal and Bulacan at 713-6614, 873-8211, (049) 536-7458, (046) 515-3291, (0919) 214-4483 & (0919) 214-3674

For a limited time only from July 2 up to 14

DUSCHOLUX enclosures have nylon ball bearing wheels for a smooth and precise sliding of the doors. Thanks to this maintenance free wheel, you get an almost frictionless and easy sliding while other shower enclosures only have wheels on a track which are easily broken.

ORIGINAL DUSCHOLUX Germany
ORIGINAL DUSCHOLUX
Germany

ORIGINAL DUSCHOLUX IN ACRYLIC GLASS
SIZE: 100mm x 1800mm
ORIGINAL PRICE P 10,800
P 9,720 SALE PRICE

All other designs & sizes are also on sale. So hurry & visit our showroom!

DEXTERTON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
Bole: 157 Sgt. E. Rivera St. (Near Damay Village) Quezon City
Agent: Tel: 323-1111 ; 361-6006 ; 362-0268
E-mail : dextertron@dextertron.com

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY AND PRECISION SHOWER ENCLOSURES

ATTENTION
LOT OWNERS FOR YOUR CONSTRUCTION NEEDS WE BUILD:

3 BR 2 T&B (72) = P 780,000

**Ceramic tiles at living, dining & kitchen
Vinyl tiles at bedrooms
French windows
Anay finish facade
Long span color roof**

3 BR 1 T&B (60) = P 570,000

**Vinyl tiles at living, dining, kitchen
and bedrooms
French windows Anay finish facade
Corrugated G.L. Sh. roofing**

2 BR 1 T&B (42) = P 357,000

STANDARD FINISH SERVICES

**Residential Mess housing project
Commercial Subd. development
Townhouses Condominiums**

ORIENT ORIENT-REALTY CORP.
Reg. 408 Sta. 100 Bldg. Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
TEL. NOS. 832-12-71

BEST DEAL EVER

COPIES / 5¢

(Guaranteed 15 copies/copy)
Ideal for offices and copy centers!

ONLY P11,000.
Email 700 / 800

ONLY AT YALBROS

Direct Importer

**YALBROS Bldg., 859 E. Carlos St. (nr. Espana), Sampaloc, Manila
Tel.: 781-1613 • 781-0189 • 781-0190 • Fax: 711-1902
Via Cauz, LRT Station: COPYCEL, Cainta (046) 416-3176
Paranaque (046) 887-1951 E-mail: yalbros@yaltel.com.ph**

IWATA TIME RECORDERS STAMPING MACHINE

**with remote printer
for labour-rate
up to 4-shift work
schedules
3 years Data
memory retention
1 or 2 color Ribbon
for letters**

P12,000 P15,000 OVERHEAD PROJECTORS

**(Electro Lens for Shapes & Clear Projection
+ 2 Super Bright Lamps)**

P6,250 HAND DRYERS

**30mm Lens for Shapes & Clear Projection
+ 2 Super Bright Lamps**

**P5,200 Steel Self-Sharpening Cutter
Steel Sharpener
Steel Sharpener
Steel Sharpener**

P5,300 COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.

P7,995

**30mm Lens for Shapes & Clear Projection
+ 2 Super Bright Lamps**

LOT OWNERS FOR YOUR CONSTRUCTION NEEDS WE BUILD:

3 BR 2 T&B (72) = P 780,000

**Ceramic tiles at living, dining & kitchen
Vinyl tiles at bedrooms
French windows Anay finish facade
Long span color roof**

3 BR 1 T&B (60) = P 570,000

**Vinyl tiles at living, dining, kitchen
and bedrooms
French windows Anay finish facade
Corrugated G.L. Sh. roofing**

2 BR 1 T&B (42) = P 357,000

STANDARD FINISH SERVICES

**Residential Mess housing project
Commercial Subd. development
Townhouses Condominiums**

ORIENT ORIENT-REALTY CORP.
Reg. 408 Sta. 100 Bldg. Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
TEL. NOS. 832-12-71

DOCTORS at the Philippine General Hospital will be asked to give a "second opinion" on the medical condition of ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, to buttress the findings of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

In a four-page urgent ex parte motion, government lawyers at the Office of the Ombudsman asked the Sandiganbayan to direct "the PGH, through its director, to send a team to examine the Estradas and to submit its report immediately to the anti-graft court."

The prosecutors are seeking the second opinion in a bid to show that the Estradas are healthy enough to be detained at Camp Crame and the veterans hospital or the police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

One of the Estradas' co-accused, lawyer Edward Serapio, is currently being held at Camp Crame.

The government lawyers said

that, judging by his appearance at his arraignment on perjury charges on June 27, Estrada was "in sound physical and mental condition." His doctors, however, had said the ex-president was suffering from arthritic knees and high cholesterol.

In the case of Jinggoy, the prosecutors said, "the entire nation saw that he is even healthier than his father," when the young Estrada spent "almost six days of a hectic schedule while on furlough in San Juan to wrap up his mayoral affairs.

Jinggoy has been at the veterans hospital on the advice of his doctors who said he needs a Thallium Nuclear Cardiac Imaging and, possibly, a coronary angiogram at the Makati Medical Center.

"There is now a pressing need to have the accused Estradas transferred from the veterans hospital to Camp Crame which also has a government hospital," the prosecutors said.

APP

Quiet Mayon belies danger ahead

BY REY NASOL, JOSE BELEN
AND ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reiterated yesterday its call for residents to stay out of the six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ) and the eight-kilometer extended danger zones (EDZ) around Mayon because of another buildup of magma underneath the volcano.

Those living outside the danger zone can return to their homes, said Cedric Daag, chief of the Provincial Disaster Management Office (PDMO).

Daag said there was a decline in sulfur dioxide emission and fewer quakes at the volcano in the last 24 hours, but Mayon's inflated edifice indicates the presence of magma and accumulating pressure underneath.

Mayon was quiet as the seismic network detected only five low frequency-type volcanic quakes and 13 high-frequency short duration harmonic tremors.

Few rockfalls occurred but this was expected as newly deposited lava continued to cool.

Only a thin and diffused steam plume emanated from the crater and this coincided with very low gas output rates of 840 tons per day compared to the previous 8,720 tons per day.

High likelihood
"These indicators of calm, though,



EVACUEES from villages near Mayon Volcano wait in line for handouts from a private relief agency Monday.

AP PHOTO

are belied by the inflated state of the edifice as shown by ground deformation measurements," said resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta.

Considering the anomalous, rapid decline of sulfur dioxide emission rates from the previous 8,740 tons per day to the previous 8,720 tons per day.

High likelihood
"These indicators of calm, though,

For Imelda, party goes on after PCGG 'blinks'

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

IMELDA Marcos had every reason to party at her family's sequestered estate in Olot, Tolosa, Leyte, after the Presidential Commission on Good Government decided to loosen its hold on the sprawling property in time for her birthday yesterday.

Despite having earlier declared that it would "regain control" of the sequestered Marcos assets, the PCGG softened its position and said the widow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos and her guests could stay at the palatial rest house at the resort while they were in the province.

According to Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr., the PCGG did not mean to prohibit Marcos from using the 45-hectare beach property but only wanted "to control its use" by the former first lady and her friends.

Carranza, who was in Olot last week to inspect the property, said the PCGG and Marcos would have to work together if either of them wanted access to the estate.

"We're not the owners, we're just the sequestering authority," Carranza said in explaining the PCGG decision to allow Marcos to use the property. "Sequestration is not ownership, but neither is her ownership absolute."

"There's a pavilion. If she wants to use that (for the party), she can use it," he said.

Carranza also said the PCGG's main thrust was to prevent the dissipation of the Marcos assets pending litigation, and to protect the property in physical and legal terms.

"It's on a case-to-case basis exactly because we can't say if future requests (by Marcos) would be granted," he said, adding that the PCGG would examine the place for damage and losses after her use.

Last Thursday, Carranza inspected the property and ordered the caretakers to padlock the 12 rooms of the guesthouse and the main doors of the rest house to "correct the anomalous practice" of allowing Marcos to use the place whenever she wanted.

He said the padlocks would ensure that the Marcoses would not have "unilateral access" to the disputed property, as they had in the past.

But two days later, the PCGG allowed Marcos to celebrate her birthday at the resort with her friends.

"Please be informed that Mrs. Imelda Marcos and company arrived at Tacloban City on Saturday, June 30, 2001, and are presently occupying the rest house and guesthouse at Olot, Tolosa, Leyte," Renor Daag, PCGG officer in Eastern Visayas, said in a memo to Carranza.

"Proper coordination with our watchman was made for the opening of the padlocks of the doors and rooms of the two houses," Daag said.

Marcos, who was scheduled to leave for abroad yesterday to seek medical treatment, had postponed her trip to challenge what she described as the "shocking" PCGG order barring her and her family from the property.

But Carranza said he "cannot understand" why Marcos should be shocked.

Loi wants death for poll cheats

THIS could be reason enough for "operators" and their contacts in the Commission on Elections to think twice before tampering with the people's votes.

Sen. Loi Ejercito, whose camp had accused the administration of massive fraud in the last elections, has filed a bill that would send Comelec personnel and other public officials to death row for participating in "dagdag-bawas" (vote-padding and padding).

The bill seeks to amend Article 22, Section 261 of Batas Pambansa 881, or the Omnibus Election Code, by including vote-padding and padding among the prohibited acts under the section.

The INQUIRER was furnished a copy of the bill by former immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, Ejercito's counsel.

"Senator Ejercito will push for the immediate passage of this bill because it is high time that election fraud is made a heinous crime," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez noted that Ejercito herself was a victim of "dagdag-bawas," which allegedly benefited the senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition, particularly Sen. Ralph Recto. Ejercito has filed four petitions contesting a total of 180,000 votes for Recto.

The bill proposes a penalty of imprisonment of 20 to 40 years for those found guilty of "dagdag-bawas." Participation may mean inducing or attempting to induce any member of the board of canvassers to tamper with the votes by increasing or decreasing the number received by a candidate.

If the offender is a public official, the penalty shall be death under the proposed law.

"This practice should not be condoned by the government, but instead sanctioned to the full extent of the law," Ejercito said.

Gerald G. Lacuaria

produce secondary explosions, or be mobilized as landslide-induced secondary pyroclastic flows and avalanches.

If, however, a gradual decline in volcanic activity is observed in the following days, Phivose said it may consider shortening the extended danger zones from an eight to seven-kilometer radius.

Two patients

Meanwhile, the old woman and little girl who received special gifts from First Gentleman Mike Arroyo during his birthday last week are now in the care of physicians.

Mr. Arroyo had ordered his Bicol staffers to personally assist four-month-old Aliza Nufiez, who is suffering from a deformed lower extremity.

Nufiez is scheduled to undergo orthopedic surgery at the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital in the next few days.

Her father, Charlie Nufiez of Bonga, a village perceived to be the most vulnerable to pyroclastic and mud flows, thanked Arroyo through a phone patch to the latter's weekly radio program "Kaibigang Atay, Mike" over dzRH Sunday.

Cresencia Alariz, 86, of barangay Buyan, who was in need of medicines and treatment for her asthma, has re-

ceived the attention she needed following a brief conversation with Arroyo.

Alariz, aided by her granddaughter, Emma Abriques and her siblings, had sought temporary shelter at the Bagumbayan Elementary School and is now confined at BRTTH for medication.

Arroyo spent his birthday here Wednesday visiting several evacuation centers, including the Gogon Elemen-

tary School where he spotted Aliza.

He brought with him truckloads of foodstuff and two medical teams from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Some 45,000 evacuees now crowd 31 evacuation centers in Legazpi City.

As of Friday, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor estimated damage to crops from the latest eruptions at P10 million. *With an AP report*

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROFIT PEAK MONTH OF JULY!

Take advantage of high demands for pure drinking water this rainy season. We will show you how easy it is to be a millionaire in just a few months.

- We provide start-up and training, store lay-out and design.
- Pro-active customers service.
- Reliable on-call technical support
- Customized equipment based on quality of source water



Available in 500 to 5,000 GPD

BIG DISCOUNTS TO CASH BUYERS!
Lots of FREE items!

WATER WARE
Global Technology. Local Expertise.
3rd Floor Administration Bldg., Duhat St.,
FTI Complex Taguig MM.
E-mail: waterware@philonline.com

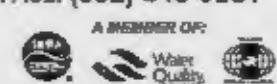
Now accepting distributorship nationwide:

Tels.: 838-2042 • 838-2052 to 55

• 838-2037 / 39

FAX: 838-2050

CEBU OFFICE: (032) 345-9261



Want a Sexier Figure For FREE?

Come to Marie-France and target your areas of excess fat now!

GET 2 FREE FAT MOBILIZATION SYSTEM TREATMENTS upon enrollment from July 2 - 7, 2001 only!

Developed in Switzerland exclusively for Marie-France, the highly effective Fat Mobilization System treatment uses scientifically developed body wraps to accelerate the body's natural process of fat elimination. Excess fat is melted away safely to create a new, slimmer shape for your figure.

Don't miss this chance to have a sexier figure easily. Call Marie-France now!

Uncover Your Curves

MarieFrance
Bodyline International®

Consultations are done in private and kept confidential. All treatments are done in hygienic and private cubicles and handled professionally by trained nurses with the medical supervision of

NOW OPEN

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Major Credit Cards Accepted.

Deferred Payments Up to 24 mos.

FREE 1/2 HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS

MIN. AFTER SALES SERVICE

Exclusively Distributed by

CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.

Main Office: Konka Bldg., 1651 M. Quirino St., Manila. Tel: 5244380

Canary City: 6th Floor, Quirino Ave. O.C. across St. Dennis Church

Reg. C. Araneta Ave. Tel: 7490531 • 7493709

PSL 437

MAILED

616-2563

892-7631/32

812-0472 • 812-0510

Sat. Mts. Bldg.,

Davao Reg.

Exclusively Distributed by

CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.

Main Office: Konka Bldg., 1651 M. Quirino St., Manila. Tel: 5244380

Canary City: 6th Floor, Quirino Ave. O.C. across St. Dennis Church

Reg. C. Araneta Ave. Tel: 7490531 • 7493709

PSL 437

ORTIGAS

607-1216

867-1216

836-3028

Robinsons Ermita

Tower, 10th Flr.

Exclusively Distributed by

CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.

Main Office: Konka Bldg., 1651 M. Quirino St., Manila. Tel: 5244380

Canary City: 6th Floor, Quirino Ave. O.C. across St. Dennis Church

Reg. C. Araneta Ave. Tel: 7490531 • 7493709

PSL 437

QUEZON CITY

242-2187

242-2191

416-3723 • 416-3724

Castro Executive Bldg.,

Tamuning Ave.

Exclusively Distributed by

CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.

Main Office: Konka Bldg., 1651 M. Quirino St., Manila. Tel: 5244380

Canary City: 6th Floor, Quirino Ave. O.C. across St. Dennis Church

Reg. C. Araneta Ave. Tel: 7490531 • 7493709

PSL 437

SHAW

534-5898

534-5877

642-8333 • 642-8337

Federal Tower Bldg.,

Quezon City

Exclusively Distributed by

CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.

Main Office: Konka Bldg., 1651 M. Quirino St., Manila. Tel: 5244380

Canary City: 6th Floor, Quirino Ave. O.C. across St. Dennis Church

Urban poor say Mendiola anything but 'zone of peace'

BY JEROME ANING

A MILITANT urban poor group yesterday criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation of the historic Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge and its environs as a "zone of peace."

"There can be no culture of peace as long as the government does not listen to the plight of the needy and violates their basic human and democratic rights," the League of Urban Poor for Action (Lupa) said.

About 100 members of Lupa staged a picket on the bridge yesterday morning to protest the ongoing demolition of the homes of the poor in many parts of the metropolis and to protest the latest round of fuel price increases.

"(The President) is a comedian. How can there be peace if we are here rallying at Mendiola?" asked Lupa secretary general Jess del Prado.

"How can she stick with her new *pakulo* (gimmick)?" he asked.

The rallyists ate a lunch of half a *tayo* (dried fish) and rice for each protester to illustrate the plight of the urban poor.

"Many urban poor families cannot even

buy a whole piece of *tayo* for every member of their family as food prices have skyrocketed due to the worsening economic crisis," Del Prado said.

The time would come, he said, when the poor would not even be able to purchase rice or salt.

The group also distributed leaflets to passersby leaflets titled, "Mendiola peaceful? Bwahahaha!"

Last week, the Chief Executive went to

the bridge, which leads to Malacañang Palace, and declared it a "zone of peace."

The bridge has been the site of rallies by various groups since the '60s. It was the site of bloody student rallies during the early '70s, the massacre of protesting farmers in 1987 and, more recently, the dispersal of the thousands of supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada during an aborted attack on the Presidential Palace.

Filipino seaman killed in explosion

KUALA LUMPUR—A Filipino crewman was killed and two seamen were missing after several explosions rocked two ships in Tawau port in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state, the Bernama news agency said yesterday.

Bernama said the explosions occurred early Sunday when fuel was being transferred from one ship to another.

Kuli Harris Anik, local police chief, said the body of Hassan Dayung, a 60-year-old Filipino, was recovered from the ship "MV Lady of Fatima," registered in the Philippines.

"Investigations show that Hassan died of carbon monoxide poisoning," he said.

Kuli said the search for the other two missing crewmen—Uban Tarji from the Filipino vessel and Bacho Tang, captain of the Indonesian ship—was continuing.

Bernama said four other crewmen, all foreign nationals, were also injured. It was not immediately known if any of them were Filipinos.

The "MV Lady of Fatima" was carrying 160 barrels of petrol, 10 barrels of diesel and 10 barrels of kerosene, it said. The Indonesian ship was a diesel and petrol suppler.

AFP



MEMBERS of the League of Urban Poor for Action (Lupa) lunch on *tayo* and rice at Mendiola to illustrate the plight of the urban poor as part of their anti-demolition campaign against President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration that Mendiola Bridge will be turned into a "zone of peace."

JES YUSON

National meet to combat crime convenes today

TO COMBAT crime, Interior Secretary Joey Lina announced that he will convene today the National Peace and Order Council (NPOC) to discuss guidelines for the adoption of a new peace and order plan.

"With the organization of the peace and order councils at the regional, provincial, city and municipal levels, there will be a more effective effort in the fight against all forms of criminality," Lina said in a statement issued yesterday.

He emphasized "the need to revitalize" the Special Action Committee composed of the secretaries of interior, national defense, social works, justice and the Armed Forces chief of staff, to take "decisive action in emergency situations."

Lina said NPOC meeting would focus on the organization of sub-national committees that will implement new peace and order plans to combat criminality, especially at the barangay level.

Lina, who chairs the council, made the announcement following the assumption to office of newly elected local officials on Saturday.

He also explained the need to revitalize the Barangay Peace and Order Committee, whose primary function is to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the peace and order program and related projects at the barangay level.

Lina enjoined governors, mayors and other local officials to immediately convene their respective provincial, city and municipal peace and order councils and adopt measures to improve the peace and order condition of their localities.

"With the assumption of a new set of local officials, I am confident that they will give priority concern to the maintenance of peace and order in their respective areas of jurisdiction," he said.

Lacson airs lament

"MANHID na tayo sa dami ng kaso (I've grown numb over the many cases filed against me.)

This was how neophyte Sen. Paulino Lacson described the surfacing of one more witness linking him to the killing of 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang in Quezon City six years ago.

"Nothing is new, every now and then there is a witness coming out, people coming out to accuse (me). So, I've grown numb" over these developments, Lacson said in his first media briefing with the Senate press.

Although there is a 60-day temporary restraining order for the hearing of the Kuratong Baleleng case, he and his lawyers are taking moves to ensure that the case is thrown out for good.

"We're filing an injunction because it is our view that the case has been prescribed after two years," he said.

Lacson said he was at a loss why his critics were attacking him even after the elections.

"I don't understand it. What surprises me is that the elections are finished. We have been proclaimed as senators, but they still continue to hit me. Why?" he asked.

He said he also could not understand why his critics at the Philippine National Police, which he used to head, were discrediting him.

"I don't know why the PNP leadership has been treating me this way. I have become close to many of them. I did not do anything bad," he said.

He said he was only hard on the "scalawags and rogues" in uniform when he headed the PNP.

"It's really unfair. It's really hurting and very frustrating," he said.

Armand Nocam

Clearance Sale

Over 20 European Wallpaper Collections

At amazingly Low prices!

Exclusive Distributor by PROJECTS UNLIMITED

Manila : 243-8888 to 95
Quezon City : 785-0412 • 724-2285
741-8990 • 712-8330

Pasig : 632-1299 • 632-1297

Hurry, before it's too late!!

The Perfect LOSE-YOUR-GUT Programme.

-ONLY-

P 40

PER VISIT
FULL ENROLLMENT

FIRST
25
TODAY

BUY 10 TREATMENTS,
GET 10
FREE

First 25 today / Conditions apply.

11 CENTERS
IN MANILA,
1 IN SUBIC,
1 IN CEBU!

No monthly dues.

Ultrapeel - Revolutionary breakthrough in the treatment of skin & body problems!

FAT LOSS PROGRAMME - With personal fitness trainer.

CALL US:

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI	MALATE	MEGAMALL	PASAY RD.	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC	SALCEDO VILL.	
Metody 2nd Flr. RCBC Bldg. 809-0396	Clarice 3/F Regina Garden II RCBC Bldg. 242-1312	Jenny 6/F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave. 365-7654	MM Basement 1 & 2 Ayala Center	Marie 27/F Atlanta Cir. #31 Annapolis	Jaja G/F Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St.	Analy G/F Pan Pacific Hotel, Adriatico St.	Michelle 2/F Bldg. A Megamall	1032 Amaz Ave., cor. Hernandez St. Restaurant Ave., Marcos Hi-way	Yvonne 887-1336	Aileen 1032 Amaz Ave., Marcos Hi-way	Alleen SM City 2/F SM Annex	Ruza 2/F Times Sq. Bldg., Trafalgar Plaza	Model Rizal Hi-way Dela Costa St. 252-6514
231-3254	365-6505	726-6505	893-8934	536-0619	631-3869	536-0619	631-3869	681-5333	887-1336	829-5428	814-0138		

VISIT US: <http://www.slimmersworld.com.ph>

EMAIL US: Inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph



D. APOSTOL
Founding
Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 205
ISSN
0116-2642

ISAGANI TAMBOT
Publisher
LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief
JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor
ATENIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor
PERGENTING B. BANDAYRE JR.
National Editor
JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor
ROSARIO A. GARCILLANO
Senior Deskperson
MARIKI R. PRISTO
Board Chairman
ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President
DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President
for Corporate Services
GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at China Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Macapagal Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1283 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 697-8888 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 697-4793, 697-4794; Advertising 697-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 628-01-83, 628-01-86 and 628-02-13; Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Case for live coverage

THE GOVERNMENT has asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision prohibiting live media coverage of the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada. There is still hope that the decision may yet be reversed, considering the close vote of 8-6.

The trial of Estrada for plunder, perjury and other crimes is a landmark event in the country's history. It may well determine the direction of efforts to curb graft and corruption in government, a problem that has plagued the nation for decades.

Let us consider the objections of the majority in the Supreme Court to live media coverage of the Estrada trial:

First, the Court said that the rights of the accused must be protected, over and above freedom of the press and the right to public information. But will live media coverage of the trial work to the prejudice of the accused? Estrada has a battery of skilled lawyers who can always raise objections when they see that he is being denied his rights. Live coverage of the trial will precisely show if there are attempts to violate the rights of the accused.

Second, the Court said that "television can work profound changes in the behavior of people it focuses on." Who are the people it is referring to? Well, obviously, the Sandiganbayan justices, the public and private prosecutors, the defense counsel and the witnesses.

Live TV coverage will spur the justices, the prosecutors and the defense counsel to do their best and to be on their best behavior. The televised Senate impeachment trial showed that people won't tolerate a poor presentation (which was the initial impression they had of the prosecution's case) or legal hanky-panky and legerdemain (which the defense tried to pull off, to no avail, in the latter part of the trial).

The fear of grandstanding is not real because, to our knowledge, none of the justices, prosecutors and defense counsel are angling for public office. They just want to try the case as fairly as they can and then get on with their lives.

The Senate impeachment trial was another thing. Admittedly, some of the senator-judges were playing to the gallery because they were running for reelection. But even then, an even-handed presiding justice, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, kept the proceedings on an even keel.

In the coming trial, even if it's televised, the presiding justices can always see when a lawyer is going out of bounds, and admonish him or even declare him in contempt of court. The court has enough power to keep proceedings orderly and to slap down anyone who would convert the trial into a circus.

Third, the majority in the Supreme Court expressed fear that a televised trial may inspire another demonstration like Edsa II or "Edsa III."

But the circumstances of the Senate impeachment trial were extraordinary, and they called for an extraordinary remedy. The people went out in the tens of thousands to Edsa and Mendiola to protest what they perceived to be a travesty of justice committed by the Craven Eleven in the Senate. A televised court trial will ensure that a similar attempt to prevent the disclosure of the truth will never succeed.

As for TV coverage influencing the decision of the Sandiganbayan, we must give the justices who will try the former president more credit than that. They are experienced jurists who know the law and the rules of procedure. And if they show any bias or prejudice, the defense lawyers can always petition that they inhibit themselves or they can move to declare a mistrial in an extreme case.

The majority said that US courts don't allow live media coverage of trials. But Justice Reynato Puno disputed this, saying that 47 American states allow TV coverage while only three—New York, South Dakota and Mississippi—don't.

The trend now is toward transparency, openness in court proceedings, and yet the majority would limit public access—through the media—to court proceedings.

It is true that even with the ban, reporters can write about the trial but the reports they will write will go through several "filters" and may be affected by their prejudices and biases as well as those of the copyreaders and editors. Some people may just want their information straight from the courtroom, without having to go through media filters.

Information is the oxygen of democracy. Without that oxygen, democracy and good government will not flourish. Limit the people's access to information and very soon they will be suffering from informational and political emphysema.

People in a democracy should be given the widest, fullest access to information. Give the people the option of pure oxygen—full access to the Estrada trial through a live coverage by the media.

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inquirer.net



How to avoid losing your cell phone

RECTO AVENUE, formerly Azcarraga, in Manila used to be a friendly flea market for second-hand textbooks, particularly the stretch from Legarda to Avenida Rizal. I used to buy second-hand pocketbooks there when I was a student. Now it is a hotbed of crime. You can buy any fake document there, be it a fake Torrens title, a diploma, a driver's license, a passport, a marriage certificate, a bank statement, anything. You name it, they can fake it. Now you can buy stolen gadgets there, especially cell phones. (For stolen car parts, especially side mirrors, go to Banawe in Quezon City.)

Recto as a center for the manufacture of fake documents and the sale of stolen goods is known to everybody, including the police and the Manila city government. The wonder is why these two government agencies don't do anything about it. Tolerating the commission of crimes has made the manufacture of fake documents an industry so that our documents are no longer trusted. Foreign governments don't accept Philippine documents anymore as proof of anything. Anybody who wants a cell phone but can't afford the price of a new unit is told to go to Recto, where stolen units are sold very cheap.

The popularity of cell phones as a status symbol has made it a most coveted accessory. No teenager would be caught without one. Even drivers and housemaids have units. Texting is a favorite pastime. But because of the high cost of units, those who can't afford new units buy cheap second-hand ones. Ninety percent of second-hand units sold at Recto are stolen.

Many buyers know that what they're buying is stolen but they buy them anyway, not realizing that the Anti-Fencing Law, which penalizes people who sell, dispose of, buy or acquire stolen property, can send them to jail for a minimum of six years. As a result, there is a quick turnover of stolen cell phones.

To supply the demand, criminals and gangs have multiplied. Theft of cell phones has risen and cell phone snatchers have become bolder. Anybody who carelessly uses or carries his unit is

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

near police stations, inside offices or even in comfort room cubicles.

Always walk in well-lit places. When walking alone, be on guard for persons following you, and walk toward areas where there are people in case you may need help.

Keep your bag with your cell phone inside close to your body.

When in public vehicles, be alert for snatchers. Be suspicious of passengers who board in threes or fours and who position themselves beside or behind the driver, near the *estribo*, and one among the passengers.

If you fall victim to snatchers, report immediately to the police and to your cell phone company.

Always cooperate with the police and barangay authorities.

If you want to own a second-hand cell phone, ask for the complete kit and a receipt.

Do's:

1. Buy cell phones only from authorized dealers. (Meaning, don't buy units from sidewalk stalls on Recto and other places.)

2. Record your cell phone serial numbers immediately after purchase. Serial numbers are available in the retail packs of brand new units. If you didn't buy your unit brand new, you can retrieve the serial numbers by pressing certain keys. (Ask the seller how.) Cell phone companies can block calls to and from stolen units if the serial numbers are reported to them.

3. Always place your cell phone in your pocket or bag where it is not visible.

4. Set your unit in "silent" mode when you are in public places and inside public vehicles.

5. If there is an urgent need for you to use your cell phone while outside, go to a place where you are safer—inside stores, near security guards,

near paying for purchases in stores or supermarkets, do not leave your unit on the counter. Put it in your bag or pocket.

Remember, buying or selling stolen property is punishable under the Anti-Fencing Law or Presidential Decree 1612.

It begins with the small things

WHERE I live, which is a housing project, the strangest thing has happened. The parking lot right below us has become a tangled mess every night. I don't know how it began. I do recall when it began, which was around five years ago.

Like all parking lots, this one has spaces for cars delineated by yellow lines. Last year, some enterprising people solicited money from the residents to buy paint to mark those spaces, and those marks are still there. I told the people who took my contribution that the problem wasn't people parking loosely in the right places. The problem was people parking resolutely in the wrong places.

The wrong places were the lanes for the cars to pass through. I do not know the idiot who started it, but he parked on one of them, right in front of a couple of cars, and left his car there the whole night. He made it a point though to keep his car on neutral so it could be pushed when the cars he was blocking had to leave. Before long, other people followed suit. Now all the spaces where cars may pass through are clogged.

What's obviously wrong with the idea is that even if the car blocking your path is on neutral, you have to push it to be able to pass. That is not so easy when you are dressed for an occasion, when it is hot as hell, or when it is raining, which are most of the time. When you are rushing to meet an appointment, moreover, you find yourself cursing very early in the morning. It's an imposition that has no place in any civilized society or right-thinking neighborhood.

It's worse now with all the spaces in-between occupied by cars. No amount of pushing the ones blocking your path will clear it. It's become utter insanity. I hope it never happens, but if an accident befalls somebody there at night, he'll be dead before anyone can get out of that mess to take him to the hospital.

No amount of complaining, and quarrels, seems to make a dent on the minds, such as they can be called that, of those who routinely occupy what should be open spaces. Indeed, the practice has become so acceptable the alternative has become completely unacceptable. Or the practice has become so prevalent that the other more normal and rational practice has become thoroughly unreasonable.

That is how it begins, with the small things. With one person thinking he is the exception to the rule,

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

work to do, needed to pay off a cop to let an errant child off the hook. That must have happened soon after the war. I did read somewhere that before World War II, the Philippine civil service was reasonably honest and the Philippine Constabulary was fairly efficient. Look where they are now.

Weeds have a way of becoming thicker, wrong practices have a way of becoming a culture. I am writing this in America, and as people have been reminding me over the past several days, Filipinos here are honest, hardworking and disciplined. So obviously the dishonesty, inefficiency and lawlessness have nothing to do with genes, or mental disposition, they have to do with manmade, or Filipino-made, situations at home. Here, where laws are applied fairly universally, or at least where Filipinos are in no position to be the exception, Filipinos get to show exemplary behavior and as a result get on very well in life.

Of course, I also remember something an Arab friend told me, which is that traffic cops in Jeddah now tend to accept bribes from erring drivers, a practice that seems to have been started there by Filipinos. But that is another story.

The trick, I suppose, lies in nipping the wrong things at the bud. Or in starting the right things at the lowest level. You may not like Lee Kuan Yew, but you've got to admire at least the way he has instilled, or enforced, discipline among Singaporeans. The first time I was in Singapore, in the 1970s, I was impressed with the way an airport official ran after me to say I had left something in the counter. I was even more impressed when I tried to hire a taxi that was disgorging its passenger and was told to take the one at the head of a line opposite the airport exit. Those things too have a way of spawning culture, faster than frogs spawn tadpoles.

Once the wrong practice kicks in, it's all you can do to stop it. I've been at my wits' end over the past several months trying to figure out a way to discourage people parking in front of me at night in our parking lot. Deflating tires and making a dent on the sides of offending vehicles—which I have done in broad daylight in plain view of people—do not seem to do the trick. They probably think I'm just being fashionably crazy. I'll have to dream up more imaginative mayhem.

And that's just over parking. Can you imagine how it is with official corruption?

Rethink ROTC abolition

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



THE TWO-YEAR Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC) is under fire from certain quarters who allege that it has become irrelevant and open to corruption. For as long as I can remember the ROTC has been around, but in the old days few questioned its "relevance." It was thought of then as good for the young people's discipline and character formation. I submit that this argument remains relevant in these times: the people of this generation, admittedly softer in many ways than their parents, could certainly use continuing lessons in discipline and character formation.

Regarding corruption, abolishing the program would not provide the answer. Tackling corruption head-on would. As for the time devoted to ROTC training, which is usually every Sunday, being put to better use, that is entirely debatable. Would it mean more time for "malling"?

Army Chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos recently objected to the ROTC's abolition on the ground that the program enables the AFP to fill up the dwindling ranks of officers. He pointed out that the Philippine Military Academy does not turn out enough graduates to fill the officer corps. This year, for instance, the Army needs about 1,500 officers, but it will be short of 903 officers. The ROTC has over the generations proudly supplied many leaders for the AFP and the police who have performed competitively with the Peacemakers.

De los Santos also cited the ROTC cadre's indispensable role in such endeavors as disaster management, search and rescue operations and election security. Without this reserve pool of officer candidates, the AFP would be even more impoverished than it already is. Let us rethink this move to abolish the ROTC as it involves the way of life of a nation. What needs to be done is to improve the ROTC training and correct its infirmities.

During the TV "debate" featuring the aspirants for the House speakership, sponsored by the Council on Public Affairs, Msgr. Nico Baulan asked why some unsavory characters get elected to Congress. For instance, a convicted rapist was just reelected to his third House term while another one has a pending extradition case. The candidates for speaker pointed out that these House members either have not received final conviction or have pending cases, and so Congress has no choice but to honor and respect the people's decision to elect them. The fault lies in the poor politi-

cal education of the electorate and in the slow pace of the administration of justice here. For instance, that rapist-lawmaker was convicted during his first term, but from the looks of it, he would probably finish his third term before the Supreme Court rules with finality on his appeal.

But now Sen. Rene Cayetano has a bright idea. He is filing a bill that would bar from running for public office anyone convicted even by the lower court of a heinous crime or a crime against morality. Cayetano's bill will no longer wait for final conviction. This is good as this would prevent the anomalous situation, but it is also an indictment of the lagging pace of the justice system.

Every Sunday evening at 9:15, I join Cecile Alvares on dzRH to look at citizens' efforts to help alleviate poverty. Last Sunday we featured Wilhelmina Martinez, administrator of Erda Technical-Vocational High School in Pandacan, Manila. Martinez spoke of Erda Tech's nearly 500 students from first year to fifth year, who are drawn from the poorest facilities in Metro Manila and trained in various skills under the dual-tech system while on full or partial scholarship. Erda Tech was set up by the Jesuit educator, Fr. Pierre Tritz in 1994, 20 years since he founded the mother organization, Erda Foundation, which currently provides about 15,000 students all over the country from grade one to sixth with their school needs to prevent them from dropping out.

In the early 1990s, Father Tritz, now 86, who realized that the only way to break the cycle of poverty is to give poor children technical training, also saw the need for a large pool of technically trained youths if this country was to industrialize.

As Martinez narrated it, this direct relationship between training and poverty is illustrated in the life of Nicasio "Junior" Sierra, who graduated from Erda Tech's electrical course last April. Junior, 20, comes from a family of 14 children, the son of barangay tanod

Nicasio Sr., who earns P300 a month in his job, and Aling Felicidad, who runs a tiny *sari-sari* store selling junk food by Erda's gate. Their home in Morales Compound in Pandacan is the size of a family van so that the children cannot all sleep there at the same time. Some kids have to spend the night in mini-buses parked in front of Erda's gate.

The athletic Junior is the first in his family to earn a high-school diploma, thanks to Erda Tech. But what's remarkable about this family is that through their poverty they have remained happy, prayerful and focused on licked this problem. The investment in this boy was well worth it as he is very talented: he won first prize in the First Manila District Skills Competition in Commercial Wiring in September 2000 and was a participant in the 9th Metro Manila Skills Olympics at the World Trade Center last November. After graduation he began working as an electrical aide at a construction firm, Design Base, ignoring enticements for higher training because his family needs the income badly.

There are many such kids at Erda Tech who are talented but they badly need help in order to have a brighter future. If you want to help alleviate poverty, sponsor any one of 84 first-year students who have no sponsors yet. (It only costs P15,000 per student.) Call Wilhelmina Martinez or school principal Estelita Marzan at 521-3547, 564-2608 or 564-1857.

Chela Navarro of Performing Artists International (PAI), who never tires of looking for ways to give local singers the opportunity to hone their talents, wishes to invite those who are looking for a respite from all our problems to get lost in beautiful music. This Thursday, July 5, at 9 p.m. at the Alegria Lounge at the Holiday Inn, along UN Avenue in Manila, PAI will present a special adaptation of "South Pacific," the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical, which she says, "integrates the musical with the current blockbuster "Pearl Harbor." Sponsored by Pagcor, the show features as special guest Asian pop diva Dulce, who will sing the haunting "Bali Ha'i." The young Lia will be played by Academy One ballerina Paola Mendoza, and her match-making mother, Bloody Mary, will be portrayed by Angie Magbanua. Playing the handsome Lt. Joe Cable is rising star Lance Raymundo, while veteran actor Chinggy Alonso, the stage director, is cast as the suave Frenchman Emile De Becque. Navarro is artistic director and script-writer.

A time for triumph

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



grams on the issue, launching campaigns over the radio and TV, in print and even advertising. Regular campus tours also serve to bring the issue to the awareness of young men and women. It was also Kalakasan, with the support of then QC Vice Mayor Charito Planas that spearheaded the establishment of women's desks in police precincts in the city, and eventually, with the support of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, all over the country.

At the anniversary celebration, Kalakasan unveiled another form of collaboration, this time with artists in the "Artists and Activists" program. The initial output of the program is a unique and quite moving piece, "Payatas," that combines dance and video to make statements about poverty, violence, hypocrisy and despair.

A collaboration among dance artist Myra Beltran, dancer-videographer Nomyo Frolan and director Carlitos Siguron Reyna, "Payatas" is truly gut-wrenching, or as Sr. Mary Johns Mananzan remarked while we watched it unfold, "nakaka-sakit ng siksikan."

I do hope "Payatas" finds a wider audience, if only because a major character, a young boy through whose eyes much of the events are viewed, is played by Carlitos and his wife Bibeth Orteza's own son. With his expressive eyes and physicality, he gives signs of someday growing into an artist-performer in his own right.

DURING the tribute that we, her sisters in Pilipinas and other women's groups, organized for Caroline "Lyn-Lyn" Matamru Lampauog, her mentor and first boss, Ging Quintos Deles, recounted a story told her by Lyn-Lyn's husband Rald.

During the Christmas break, when Lyn-Lyn came home from her Jakarta posting for Unesco, she, Rald and their two children took part in a ritual that had become part of their small family's tradition. Each member of the family expressed a "dream" that he or she wished to be fulfilled in the year to come. Lyn-Lyn's dream was that they would all have the chance to spend time together as a family. Since she had been apart from them for some months.

For their summer break this year, Rald and the children flew to Jakarta and there spent a month with Lyn-Lyn, visiting various tourist spots in Indonesia. It was while they were enjoying themselves in a beach resort not far from Jakarta that Lay, the older child, observed to her mother: "Inay, wasn't this your dream, that we would all be together as a family, enjoying ourselves?"

To which Lyn-Lyn replied: "Yes, that was my dream, and now it's come true. That's why it's important to dream, because every triumph begins with a dream."

Our short and hastily prepared program for Lyn-Lyn interspersed recollections from her colleagues and sisters with songs by Bayang Barrios, Aleli Marcelino (a gender and development trainer who sang her own composition), and Inang Lay. We were especially grateful for the presence of Karina Constantino David and Becky Demetillo Abraham, in a rare reunion since they consider themselves semi-retired from performing.

From everything that was said of Lyn-Lyn not just during the sisterhood's tribute but also the tributes organized by her friends in social development and her classmates at the Ateneo, it seems clear that Lyn-Lyn lived her life by the light of a central dream. And that was no less than the dream of a society truly free and truly equal.

I have written previously that we considered Lyn-Lyn a "child" of Pilipinas. More than that, she was a child of her times and of the society that emerged from the darkness of martial law, living out the injunctions on justice and equality that propelled her to commit to the life she chose. And it is with the painful realization that this young woman was coming into her own, and in her marriage with Rald, shaping two wonderful human beings, that we most mourn her loss and feel her absence.

Cultural influences

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

L. Harper



conferred prestige upon the owners. The Chinese might not even have considered these types as works of art, differentiating between "export wares" and their imperial wares as well as certain designs specifically for the European market such as the blue and white willow pattern.

These enthusiastic consumers were not just continental Europeans but Spanish settlers who had made their money in mining or commerce, government functionaries and Church dignitaries who considered these products to be symbols of prestige and power.

The clientele of Oriental products weren't confined to the wealthy since they found acceptance with bigger market. Silk bought in Manila, embroidered or otherwise, had different categories, some of them priced within reach of the masses. Europe had its silk but it could not compete with the brilliance (or price) of the Chinese products. (Doesn't this sound all too familiar?)

Aside from textile, there were also porcelain, furnishings like screens, paintings and embroideries on silk that were manufactured and gilded in a foreign market. Whole sets of tableware were ordered for special occasions such as the ascension of Charles IV to the throne. Today porcelain pieces can still be found bearing scenes of European life in Asia.

Silk embroidered in gold or silver thread was also ordered for religious statues or for use in religious vestments. Ivory products were commissioned and made under the direction of Spanish friars. Hard wood furniture was ordered deco-

rated with mother of pearl, ivory and silver, whether in the form of tables, chairs, boxes, benches, armoires or screens.

The variety of these objects of art is for the most part seen today in museums, private residences and antique galleries. In recent years, quite a number have been salvaged through underwater archaeology, and the National Museum has impressive galleries devoted to these treasures.

For instance, the galleon San Diego, which sank during the encounter with the Dutch on Dec. 14, 1600, had 5,262 objects that have since been restored in Manila and Paris. From instruments of navigation like the astrolabe to bronze cannons forged perhaps by Panday Pira, 200 pieces of export blue and white porcelain, silver objects, items used in everyday life—these are mute testimony to that transpacific trade.

We owe Spain whatever vestiges may be left of an urban tradition. (The word "urban" means relating to or characteristic of or constituting a city, while to describe a person as "urbane" is to say he is courteous, polite and polished. Needless to say, I'm thinking of the Mehan Gardens and those restaurants atop the Intramuros walls.) The urban tradition, i.e., the concept of how a population is to be organized into a community, was implanted by Spain (probably more specifically by Spanish friars). As a Mediterranean country, Spain had a long history of urban life as well as the experience of establishing cities in the New World. Intramuros shares with Latin American countries the grid pattern with streets parallel and perpendicular, a square major plaza, a *plaza de armas*, the fort, the bastions, the posterns, the storage for ammunition, the royal house, the hermitages, the *cabildo*, the cathedral, the monasteries.

Whatever the Americans might have thought by the time they arrived, we had been urbanized for 300 years, a tradition that appears to be on the wane today.

Coming of age

(Concluded from Saturday)

15. RECOGNIZE the substance of your rage. Rage without respect for other voices gets you nowhere.

Balance your passion and criticism. Stick to the objective and don't be afraid to take leave when the greater good is absent from a cause.

16. Respect women. Respect nature. Respect old folks. Respect others' opinions. Respect yourself. Without looking at other side of truth, you're really just talking to yourself, making others talk behind your back. It's a democracy out there. Respect other things and other peoples' places in the sun. They are pieces of you.

17. Seize the day! Not tomorrow, but now. If it's within your control, leave nothing to chance. Take the rein; grab opportunities. There is so much more to say but the important thing is for you to go on the journey and discover things for yourself.

Every fall is worth the ride, but do count the great strides, and have fun! Remember: Suck the very marrow out of life.

18. Embrace your weaknesses. Heal your bruises. Recover, recover, recover. Everybody hurts. Everyone faces storms in his life. But what counts most is that you get back up and face new challenges.

19. Dream. Otherwise life is not worth living. Imagination is more important, more lasting than knowledge. Albert Einstein knew that. The best form of freedom is when you can get out of the boundaries of your mind. Break the barriers of your soul's poverty. Soar above the crowd and take yourself beyond its visions.

20. Believe. In God. Angels. Life. Love. Friendship. Family. Success. Beauty. They're what makes this life worth living, and they make the less palatable aspects of our lives more digestible.

21. Life is beautiful, no matter what you did or what others have done to you. Amid the darkest news, the bleakest events, there's the awesome miracle of living. And while you live, try your best to act with courage, contentment and wisdom. You've heard it before: You need the first to change the things you can, the second to accept the things you can't, and the third to know the difference.

22. Be a little bit of everything. But keep your character. A warrior who wears only one armor leaves some parts vulnerable. Never be afraid to be different. Find your individuality and keep it evolving. Diversity makes this world interesting.

23. Never stop learning or miss an opportunity to learn. Plant a tree. Write a book. Contribute a verse. Learn to play an instrument. Sing. Dance. Cook. You only have this one chance. Don't waste it.

24. Seek your motivation. First you crawl until you're strong enough to stand on your own feet. Use your hands, feet and other sources of strength and be amazed by your own capacity to make it through. Your failures or shortcomings are your first source of wisdom.

25. Perfection and happiness are for real. The happiest people don't have everything; they're just good at making the best of everything that life brings. Don't search too far for the perfect time, the perfect person or the perfect wood. The laughter and the tears you've shared, the wisdom you've acquired, the constancy of life and the fact that you are part of it make every moment perfect.

26. Earn respect and freedom. Guard them with your life. History teaches us that freedom is never given and respect isn't handed out for free. One must fight for them and when he has them he must exercise eternal vigilance to keep them. And then he has to ask himself what he is going to do with them.

27. True genius lies in achieving more with less. At work, do things the smart way: maximize the use of available resources, delegate tasks, set realistic deadlines. Why should you live your life differently? Making things a lot simpler often involves nothing more than the use of common sense.

28. People go on forever when somebody takes them along. We achieve tangible mortality by enjoying every moment with our loved ones. In their hearts, we live on as undying memories told from one generation to the next.

29. Above all, be true to yourself. Express, do not impress. The best words and the most wonderful stories are those that we can take with us without fear, guilt or watching ourselves lest we accidentally slip into inconsistency. Which is really a lie.

30. Anger has no purpose. You probably don't have to turn the other cheek when you are treated unfairly, but to show anger is only to display one's weakness unnecessarily. That only excites the offender for then he has achieved his or her purpose. Get even by not getting mad.

31. Greed eventually destroys what it accumulates. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. A cheap squirt of authority may embolden a person but it also gradually degrades one's humanity if left to rule on its own. Power is essential to rule or to lead, but unguided by a good motivation or an honest heart, it becomes a ticking bomb that will destroy its bearer eventually.

32. Ignorance or apathy does not make one less culpable, but more accountable. In this world, it's so easy to commit a crime: just do nothing, say nothing, be nothing. Cowardice in the midst of chaos reduces our capability to realize our full potential. It damages us permanently until we do something about it. On a larger scale, it turns ineptness and injustice into truths that people live by.

33. Never cry wolf. It takes only one discovered lie to soil one's reputation. If you truly have to lie, make it simple, easy to remember and consistent. But if you alarm people dishonestly or mischievously, prepare to pay the price. When the true moment comes, nobody will believe you anymore.

34. Seek truth from within. Not from newspaper, television or radio reports that tend to magnify crises. Just as they sometimes make things look larger than life, so do they conjure visions worse than death. But don't be too blind to notice the scars, the real enemies, the cry for help. Truth lies in your heart. Listen to what it tells you.

35. Act serious and people will take you seriously. Act dumb and you'll be treated the same way. People listen to leaders who carry a big stick.

36. Prejudice is ignorance is slavery. Women and homosexuals have been prejudiced for their gender, African-Americans and other "colored" people for their skin. We've built "caste" systems to alienate, and other proselytizing systems to segregate "our" kind from the "others."

37. Stop counting and start living. You can't account for the appetite, the good night sleep, the wild ride, the times spent together, the living years, the sensibility and common sense we gain from real experiences. These are priceless. Save, yes, but not to the point of postponing what you can enjoy now.

38. Real poverty is in the soul. Amputate the soul and you kill the man. A nation can suffer the most severe economic and political crises, but the most tragic one is when its people lose all hope while its leaders want only to enrich themselves at the peoples' expense.

39. Just because you don't see something, it doesn't mean it's not there. Even if it's there, we may fail to see. A rock in a fountain of water, so goes a line in "The Godfather," remains hard and solid inside, as impenetrable as some residents of the Vatican who fail to see God even if they're surrounded by His images.

We're not any different. But it's part of our life's journey to either seek our God or to stay callous and cold as stone.

40. Don't be afraid to take big steps, you cannot cross a chasm in two small jumps. Remember there is nothing to fear but fear itself. The worst form of death is the one you live with inside of you amid the flow of hope that accompanies each passing day. Live with honor and without regret.

Dennis Torrecampo 28, works as a content manager for a leading global e-business consultancy firm in Singapore.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

Erap trial a matter of public concern

THE SUPREME Court decision not to allow television coverage of the trial of former President Joseph Estrada comes as a big disappointment.

The Court ruled that "a public trial is not synonymous with a publicized trial"—which tends to confuse "public" with "publicity" if only to vaguely rationalize barring the use of the existing technology of television.

Owing to the fact that the trial has no precedent in the history of litigation in the country, the Court ought to have been more circumspect in deciding the matter and should not have resorted to semantics as an easy way out.

The trial of a president is a matter of public concern. To cover it live on television is to make available information that is a matter of public concern to all those who are in-

terested using existing technology. Television is as public as one can get in this time and age. If a public trial is held, then it follows that television can cover it live.

Now what is a "publicized trial"? Is it a reference to a television network's effort to maximize its viewership rating? If this is so, then the Court should merely direct the networks not to "publicize" or run station ads to announce the coverage of the trial.

It was not necessary for the Court to make a distinction between a public trial and a publicized trial because one certainly has nothing to do with the other except perhaps in addressing the same audience: the Filipino public.

Is it necessary then to point out to the justices of the Supreme Court that Filipino citizens are the aggrieved party in this case against the

former president and that therefore they should be as much a part of the proceedings? The people need to know whether the former president is guilty or not guilty of the charges against him. And this need to know the truth can be the only argument for television coverage.

Is the Supreme Court decision not adding insult to the injury (of the alleged crime against the people) that the former president has already inflicted upon the Constitution of the land? And being the aggrieved party here, is the ruling not another cause for grievance at being deprived of the experience of standing witness to this moment in Philippine judicial history?

It is only proper for the Kapisanan ng mga Brodaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) to file an appeal for reconsideration, in the hope that the decision will be overturned.



LETTERS

Indeed, we should all express disapproval of this ruling that tends to limit access to information that is of great interest to the public.

Interestingly, in its desire to discourage mass action, the Court is courting public unrest—directed at the institution—with this kind of decision. And the justices can rest assured that any street action of that kind will be covered by television.—FRANCISCO LEO LOPEZ, 2118 M.H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila

RP coffee industry needs a break

COFFEE is about the latest thing to hit our colonial minded society. Although the Philippine coffee industry has been dying a slow and painful death ever since the Americans brought in coffee beans from Brazil and Colombia, the *elitista* have spearheaded the entry of expensive coffee places like Starbucks.

Starbucks coffee is good and steeply priced. It sure does repress the Filipino's taste for good old Batangas *barako* and other local varieties. It's either instant coffee or the expensive coffee shop kind for us Filipinos.

The government in its move toward globalization upon the prodigies of First World nations hastened the entry of foreign coffee shops like Starbucks, Coffee California and Seattle's Best in the late 1990s. What the government has forgotten to do is encourage the growth of the local coffee industry.

Philippine coffee consists of four varieties (Arabica is the best of all). It is sad to see our once thriving coffee industry dying beside the expensive imported varieties that dominate our market.

Sure the Philippines has been dubbed a "houseboy country" by critics on account of our penchant for anything foreign. It has come to the point that we forget to nurture our very own, including the simplest things like coffee.

I've been sitting in Starbucks coffee shops for three years now ever since the first outlet in Makati opened to the detriment of my allowance. Starbucks gives you the feeling that you're in the States. It also gives you a taste of sophisticated coffee drinks like macchiato, latte and the like. Its clientele isn't exactly your average Filipino waiting to catch a jeepney or bus ride. The fact is Starbucks caters to the AB market.

But hey, there's not too much harm in drinking Starbucks coffee. Let's just not forget to remind the government to ease up a bit on the globalization thing. Our coffee should emerge victorious in the Philippines if not the international market. Let's face the fact that our coffee industry needs a big break and patronizing coffee shops that sell foreign coffee is detrimental to our national interest.

In this sense coffee reflects the political and social abyss that we Filipinos must fathom. It reflects many things in our society, like the ineffectiveness of our government and our colonial mindset, that have brought our country down to its knees in the past and in the present.—RINA T. LIM, Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman

and I wonder if they would be willing, given the military's code of silence, to tell the whole world the real role of the military in the bombing plot of Plaza Miranda. With the recent announcement of the AFP that the CCP-NPA-NDF is still the No. 1 threat, wouldn't it be safe to conclude that such "exposés" are aimed to undermine the peace talks and prepare public opinion for its eventual scrapping?

Such an absurdity should not be seen as an aberration to the general trend. Where else in the world can a convicted rapist be elected as a congressman, or a torturer treated as a hero? And only in the Philippines can the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos be the friend and not the fiend. *Dito lang po tolaga sa akin.* —RAYMOND MAGLANOC, chair, ANAKBAYAN-NCR, 1316 San Perfecto St., Sampaloc, Manila

Another point I would like to add is the biases of the witnesses whose testimony Salonga cites. All the names he mentioned are either non-living or are working for the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Victor Corpuz and Ruben Guevarra serve as intelligence agents of the government,

Wittingly or unwittingly, Salonga, by playing the apologist for the Marcoses, rubbed salt on the wounds of the more than 10,000 human rights victims who still have to see justice served. This is the reason nobody was surprised that the Marcos family was the first to applaud the book of Salonga.



Red baiting on ROTC issue

IT IS SO AMUSING how the Armed Forces of the Philippines makes such sweeping but dense statements in the letter published last June 29 titled "Review of ROTC program in progress." Lt. Col. Jose Z. Mabantu carefully evaded the real issues which have lead to the clamor for the abolition of the ROTC. He simply slandered legitimate and recognized student organizations by resorting to labeling, branding and Red baiting, a technique the AFP is very famous for.

The letter was in fact an attack not on what Mabantu dubbed as "leftist organizations" but on the youth who are pursuing their legitimate demands. The picket at the University of Sto.

Tomas, spearheaded by Anakbayan, the League of Filipino Students and Student Christian Movement of the Philippines, was legitimate expression of the demand of not only members of these organizations but of students and cadets as well. It is not only these student organizations that want the ROTC program abolished. Many parents and school administrations are troubled by the corruption within the program.

Does the AFP find it hard to understand that the ROTC program breeds corruption? In exposing this, Mark Chua lost his life.

Second, the program is nothing more than an added compulsory burden to our parents adding to the cost of education which is rising yearly. Third, the program molds

fascist minds among the youth. Mabantu's appeal to parents and the academic community to keep away these student organizations from their children and students was a sappy one. The AFP speaks of a "democratic way of life" and "molding the youth into responsible, competent and learned professionals," but isn't it a monstrous human rights violation?

No amount of Red baiting can stop us in pursuing the youth's legitimate demands, and in this case, the abolition of the ROTC.—TANYA MARIA GUERRERO, national president, League of Filipino Students, 1316 San Perfecto St., Sampaloc, Manila

and I wonder if they would be willing, given the military's code of silence, to tell the whole world the real role of the military in the bombing plot of Plaza Miranda. With the recent announcement of the AFP that the CCP-NPA-NDF is still the No. 1 threat, wouldn't it be safe to conclude that such "exposés" are aimed to undermine the peace talks and prepare public opinion for its eventual scrapping?

Such an absurdity should not be seen as an aberration to the general trend. Where else in the world can a convicted rapist be elected as a congressman, or a torturer treated as a hero? And only in the Philippines can the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos be the friend and not the fiend. *Dito lang po tolaga sa akin.* —RAYMOND MAGLANOC, chair, ANAKBAYAN-NCR, 1316 San Perfecto St., Sampaloc, Manila

Another point I would like to add is the biases of the witnesses whose testimony Salonga cites. All the names he mentioned are either non-living or are working for the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Victor Corpuz and Ruben Guevarra serve as intelligence agents of the government,

Wittingly or unwittingly, Salonga, by playing the apologist for the Marcoses, rubbed salt on the wounds of the more than 10,000 human rights victims who still have to see justice served. This is the reason nobody was surprised that the Marcos family was the first to applaud the book of Salonga.

Poisoned by Manila's polluted air

WONDER what ever happened to the way some Filipinos in Manila think? Convert a mini jungle into a concrete jungle? These people are the same ones affected by pollution caused by people and machines. Don't they realize that the trees help clean the air they breath? Are sentimentality and respect for cultural heritage gone?

Barking up the wrong tree

LEAH Salterio should have at least checked the veracity of Art Bell having allegedly insulted the Filipinos. I am a regular listener of Bell's radio program, Coast to Coast and, time and time again, he has denied the accusations. His letter to the Filipino people is posted on his website, www.aribell.com.

The alleged insult attributed to Art Bell was traced to a university in California. Apparently, there was rivalry between ethnic Asian groups in that school and somebody circulated that offensive letter in the Web.

While I agree that we should always protest and take offense when derogatory accusations are made

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Reading the Inquirer in the Net has been a daily habit for me.—EXPEDITO MERCADO, emerado@midway.uchicago.edu

Please see the following story on Page A22.—Ed.

against our race and culture, this is one case of "barking up the wrong tree."

The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor

Milosevic: Trial a Nato revenge

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia—Slobodan Milosevic will tell the UN war crimes tribunal Tuesday that he is being put on show trial as a victim of Nato revenge because he refused to give up Kosovo, his lawyers said.

Milosevic was extradited Thursday to The Hague, Netherlands, to be tried by the tribunal on alleged involvement in Kosovo atrocities during the crackdown he ordered in 1998 on the Serbian province's

ethnic Albanian majority. He was to appear Tuesday for an initial hearing.

Milosevic had been awaiting trial for alleged corruption and abuse of power in a Belgrade prison, and domestic investigations had recently widened to his alleged links to covering up Kosovo atrocities. Although he was extradited before any domestic trial, his lawyers claimed Sunday that they had proven their client's innocence and the same defense team would be representing him at The Hague.

The lawyers said Milosevic was in good health despite the ordeal of extradition.

Asked about strategy, lawyer Branimir Gugl said: "We have not been working on the defense . . . (because) Mr. Milosevic does not recognize the tribunal."

Gugl said his client continues to assert that he is "clearly a political trial, based on the fact that he is the only man who stood up against Nato."

Milosevic's refusal to pull out his forces from Kosovo despite a Nato ultimatum provoked 78 days of

bombing by the alliance, stopped only in mid-June after he gave in and ordered his troops out of the province, permitting UN administrators and NATO peacekeepers in.

Reflecting the trademark defiance Milosevic has exhibited throughout his battle to avoid extradition, Gugl said the former president told his wife, Mirjana Markovic, to a phone call from The Hague that he had no regrets.

"He was working for the interests of the Serbian people as president, and if he were to be head of

state again, he would act the same way," Gugl said. Milosevic is Serb and Serbia is the larger and far more powerful of the two remaining Yugoslav republics.

"He is in fantastic psychological condition," Gugl said of Milosevic, citing his wife. "He says he is not guilty of anything."

Gugl said Milosevic requested "books, fresh clothes and money," during the phone call.

Milosevic was handed over to the tribunal by the Serbian government, in defiance of a Constitutional Court ruling that suspended a federal govern-

ment decree allowing his extradition.

Calling the handing over a "turning point," the tribunal's chief prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, said Friday that the Kosovo indictment against the former Yugoslav president would be expanded.

Del Ponte said the new indictment would accuse Milosevic of responsibility in the deaths of more than 600 Kosovo Albanians, twice the number of names cited when he was first charged in May 1999.

An estimated 10,000 Kosovo Albanians were killed during Milosevic's 18-month crackdown against the rebellious Serbian province. AP

Drama set in a small, bare court

BY ROBERT H. REID

THE HAGUE—The opening chapter in the trial of Slobodan Milosevic will be played out in a compact chamber, where computer terminals and surveillance cameras will help justices weigh evidence of medieval brutality.

On Tuesday, the former Yugoslav president will be led into the chamber to a blue swivel chair, located in front of an inter-

preter's booth which is located to the right-front of the table where the presiding judge, Richard May of Britain, sits.

The man who wielded nearly absolute authority in Yugoslavia for more than a decade must stand when the judge enters the chamber and again when he is asked to enter his plea to each of four charges:

• Deportation, a crime against humanity;

• Murder, a crime against humanity;

• Murder, a violation of the laws or customs of war;

• And persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds, a crime against humanity.

All four charges are based on atrocities committed by his forces during a crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo two years ago. The court must decide whether Milosevic bears responsibility for those atrocities. AP

Wahid urges early polls to end crisis

JAKARTA—President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday urged early general elections as the only way out of Indonesia's political stalemate, accusing opponents of blocking all avenues to compromise.

"If we still want to see this country united, the constitutional deadlock has to be overcome," an angry Wahid said at his office.

"The solution can only be through an advanced general election," he said. "The people should judge, we should return to the people."

General elections are not due until 2004, and Wahid, who has floated the idea before, would need the approval of the country's national assembly, the MPR, to call them.

"All people said there should be no (state of) emergency, but all are closing off the path toward compromise . . . What do they all want?" said Wahid, addressing participants of a course held by the National Resilience Institute for district and municipal officials.

Wahid was referring to his widely opposed plan to impose a state of emergency, which would enable him to freeze parliament before it can impeach him during a special MPR session on Aug. 1.

The plan has been opposed by the military, the police, MPs and many politicians.

Wahid reiterated that efforts to oust him through the special session would trigger the disintegration of the nation and he deserved particular wrath for House Speaker Akbar Tanjung.

MPs both at the MPR, the upper house of parliament, and at the DPR, the lower house, have however already objected to bringing forward the general elections for a second time.

Indonesia brought forward the 2003 general elections to 1999, which lead to the election by the MPR of Wahid as the president and Megawati Sukarnoputri as vice president.

Wahid's close aide, Defense Minister Muhammad Mahfud, said an early general election could be "a solution to the current debacle" between Wahid and legislators.

"That is because both the DPR and the president consider (their actions) as unconstitutional," Mahfud said, adding the MPR should play fair.

"If they want to revoke the power of the president, they should also accept to consider advancing the general elections." AFP

Taiwan offers official talks with China

TAIPEI—Taiwan, frustrated with a two-year impasse in relations with rival China, has offered to hold talks with Beijing through official channels, local media reported yesterday.

The proposal is unlikely to go down well in Beijing, however, since China has largely ignored the government of President Chen Shui-bian and his pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

Taiwan newspapers quoted Cabinet Secretary General Chiu I-jen as saying the government did not exclude letting the top China policymaking agency, the Mainland Affairs Council, hold talks with the Taiwan Affairs Office of China's State Council.

"If the other side is willing, we do not rule out the possibility of allowing the Mainland Affairs Council to deal directly with the mainland's Taiwan Affairs Office," the mass circulation China Times newspaper quoted Chiu as telling reporters on Sunday.

Taipei and Beijing, rivals since a 1949 civil war split, began bilateral negotiations through quasi-official bodies in the early 1990s, but talks were frozen in mid-1999 when then President Lee Teng-hui demanded parity.

Beijing views the island as a breakaway province and has threatened to attack if it declares independence or drags its feet on unification talks.

President Chen has mellowed his pro-independence stance and offered olive branches since he swept to power last year. But he refuses to kowtow to Beijing's cherished "one China" principle that it is the sole, legitimate government of all China. Reuters

AP

Unlimited calls to any cellphone*.

Unlimited calls to any landline.**

Unlimited local calls.

Unbelievably

low monthly

rate of only

P2,999.



Call Nextel now at 781-2345.

The Nextel Call-All-You-Can Promo. Now you can make all the local phone calls you want to any landline or cellular phone for a flat monthly rate of only P2999*. Get the peace of mind of paying one fixed monthly rate for one year upon subscription when you sign-up anytime from July 1 to August 31, 2001. Plus, you get unlimited private 2-way radio calls and unlimited one-way text messaging. Give your business the most cost-effective call plan no cellphone can ever match. Get the Nextel advantage now!

*NDD calls will be charged P4.40/minute; IDD calls will be charged US\$.30/minute.

NEXTEL
When you mean business.

Unlimited business calls.

Unlimited opportunities.

Unlimited talktime.

Unbeatable value

at only ₱2,999

a month.



Call Nextel now at 781-2345.

The Nextel Call-All-You-Can Promo. Now you can make all the local phone calls you want to any landline or cellular phone for a flat monthly rate of only ₱2999*. Get the peace of mind of paying one fixed monthly rate for one year upon subscription when you sign-up anytime from July 1 to August 31, 2001. Plus, you get unlimited private 2-way radio calls and unlimited one-way text messaging. Give your business the most cost-effective call plan no cellphone can ever match. Get the Nextel advantage now!

*IDD calls will be charged ₱4.00/minute; IDD calls will be charged US\$0.30/minute.

NEXTEL
When you mean business

Argentina's 'Blond Angel' surrenders

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—One of the most infamous death squad leaders of Argentina's 1976-1983 "Dirty War" dictatorship, Alfredo Astiz, turned himself in to police early yesterday after an Italian court sought his arrest.

The former Navy captain, known as "The Blood Angel" for his cherubic looks, was ordered detained by an Argentine judge at the request of an Italian court which linked Astiz to the 1976 kidnappings of Angela María Araya and the 1977 kidnapping of Giovani Pegoraro and his pregnant daughter, Susana Pegoraro.

"He turned himself in to Interpol and now he's at (federal) police headquarters accompanied by a lawyer waiting the judge's instructions," a federal police spokesperson said.

Astiz was transferred to a Coast Guard detention cell at 2 a.m. awaiting a court hearing, the spokesperson added but could not say whether this might lead to his extradition.

There is evidence that Susana Pegoraro gave birth to a daughter, who is living under the name Evelyn Vazquez in the port city of Mar del Plata some 400 km south of Buenos Aires, Clarin and La Nacion newspapers said on Sunday.

During Argentina's dictatorship, pregnant women detained by the military were often killed after giving birth and their babies stolen to be raised by military families.

Also dubbed the "Angel of Death," Astiz once boasted to Argentine magazine Tres Puntitos in 1998, in what he claimed was an off-the-record talk, that he was "the best-trained man in Argentina to kill journalists and politicians."

Reuters



THE SON of slain Palestinian Hamas member Mahmoud Khalil holds a gun during a Hamas demonstration in the West Bank city of Jenin July 1. Five Palestinian militants were killed by Israeli forces Sunday, three in a helicopter attack and two in a clash with soldiers, Israeli and Palestinian officials said. REUTERS

Police to charge US sarge for Okinawa rape

TOKYO—Police were preparing on Monday to charge a US air force sergeant in the rape of a young Japanese woman, an incident that could trigger renewed anti-US forces sentiment among local residents, domestic media said.

The local mayor plans to demand a curfew on US servicemen.

After a fourth day of questioning,

police were convinced, based on witness accounts, that the 24-year-old technical sergeant raped the woman early on Friday in a parking lot in Chatan on southern Okinawa island, Kyodo news agency quoted police sources as saying.

The man has denied committing the rape, Kyodo said.

Police would apply for an arrest

warrant as soon as they coordinate arrangements with the National Police Agency and the Foreign Ministry, Kyodo quoted the sources as saying.

On Monday morning, the police summoned the man, who is in the 353rd Special Operations Group, for questioning for a fourth straight day. He has not been officially detained.

After obtaining the arrest warrant,

police will ask the US military authorities to give their consent for the arrest, and he can then be handed over to Japanese authorities.

He has been held in US custody and is based at the huge Kadena Air Base, the biggest in Asia.

The crime occurred just hours before Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi left for the United States to meet President George W. Bush at a get-to-know-you summit at Camp David.

While Koizumi said the two leaders had "heart-to-heart" talks, there was little sign that Bush was ready to agree to a reduction in the 26,000 US troops to which a reluctant Okinawa has played host since World War Two.

Reuters

S. Korea hunts 100 N. Korean boat people

SEOUL—South Korean police are hunting more than 100 North Koreans and ethnic Koreans from China who were smuggled into the South last week, officials said yesterday.

Police said they had detained one man, who claimed to have escaped from North Korea. The man told them 107 people were on three Chinese fishing boats that put the Koreans ashore on Friday.

News of the manhunt was released two days after a family of seven North Koreans arrived in Seoul, having spent three days holed up at a United Nations refugee agency office in Beijing demanding safe passage to South Korea.

China normally sends North Koreans that it catches back to the communist state. Aid groups say escapees are sometimes executed there.

A growing number of Koreans in China are taking desperate bids to reach refuge in South Korea.

Police said the arrested man had told them the group of 108 Koreans had left China on three fishing boats on July 24 and reached the west coast of South Korea near Tangjin.

Kim Jae-kook of Tangjin police said the detained man had been left behind after sustaining a broken leg.

"We have launched a manhunt to arrest the rest of 107 illegal immigrants but we fear they may already be a long way inland," Kim said.

The arrested North Korean said he had escaped a Russian logging camp in 1994 and fled to China.

Police said they did not know how many North Koreans were among the wanted group.

Aid groups have said there are up to 300,000 North Koreans and ethnic Koreans in China waiting for a chance to get to the South.

AFP



READY TO SAIL AGAIN

Sydney's oldest sailing ship, the James Craig, makes its official return to service July 2 as it steams past the Sydney Harbor skyline following 30 years of restoration by hundreds of volunteers. Originally launched in 1874, the 54.7-meter-long three-masted Barque is undertaking working-up cruises before turning to charter work, which costs A\$13,500 (\$6,900) per day, including catering.

Sacked police chief spurns Wahid envoy post offer



JAKARTA—Indonesia's sacked national police chief General Suryo Bimantri yesterday rejected President Abdurrahman Wahid's offer to appoint him as ambassador to Malaysia.

"I personally and my family offer a million thanks for the respect and appreciation shown by the president by offering me the post as ambassador to Malaysia," Bimantri told a press conference.

"With all due respect, we cannot yet accept (the offer) owing to limitations on our part," he added, without elaborating.

However, Bimantri said he now

accepted his controversial dismissal as police chief by Wahid.

"I personally accept it as a reality and it is the authority of the president to replace the chief of police," he said.

Bimantri said he had earlier refused an order by the president to submit a letter of resignation, not refused to accept the dismissal itself.

"I am well aware that because of limitations . . . I have not yet performed to the fullest and as expected by the national leader and the community," he said.

Bimantri was suspended as police chief by Wahid on June 2, after he had refused the president's re-

quest the day before to resign.

Wahid revealed at the police force's 55th anniversary celebrations Sunday that he had appointed Bimantri as Indonesia's new ambassador to Kuala Lumpur.

The near-blind Wahid is battling impeachment and the upper house is due to convene a special meeting on Aug. 1 to demand his accounts for his rule. He will be impeached if lawmakers reject his account.

Bimantri had defied his suspension and continued to act as head of police, with the vocal support of the country's top police commanders and former police chiefs.

Bimantri and his supporters, including many parliamentarians, maintain the president cannot suspend or sack the police chief without parliament's approval.

Seven leaders of parliamentary factions criticized Wahid's offer of the ambassadorial post to Bimantri.

"This is the third violation committed by the president," Ali Marwan Hanan, chair of the Muslim-based United Development Party faction in parliament, said on television.

He was referring to Wahid's two earlier decisions to fire Bimantri and his predecessor Rusdi Harjo and to decommission Bimantri.

Malena Hassan, 24, moved into the two-by-six-meter cage in a museum in the northeastern state of Kelantan on Sunday at the launch of an international reptiles exhibition.

She aims to be listed in the Malaysian Book of Records as the first woman to stay in an enclosed cage with the poisonous species.

For 30 days, Malena will eat and sleep in the cubic with the scorpions and will be allowed to leave it for only 15 minutes daily to use the bathroom.

"It sent shivers in me to see her in the cage with the scorpions. All I can do is pray for her safety," her mother Marmur Che Muda was quoted as saying by Monday's New Straits Times.

Malena's nightmare was prompted by last year's success of "Snake Woman" Fazida Mat Saad who became the first Malaysian woman to have stayed 31 days with 90 snakes in a glass cube.

Malaysia's "Snake King" Ali Khan Shamsudin, who trained Malena, was quoted by The Star as saying her challenge was to keep all her movements gradual as scorpions are easily startled by sudden moves.

US-Vietnam talks on Agent Orange make shaky start

BY STEVE KIRBY

HANOI—Washington and Hanoi yesterday resumed troubled talks on joint research into the impact of the wartime defoliant Agent Orange amid accusations by a US scientist that Vietnamese bureaucrats are blocking investigation of a "public health emergency."

A US delegation headed by Dr. Christopher Porter of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Dr. William Farland of the Environmental Protection Agency began two days of talks with Science and Technology Minister Chu Tuan Nha.

Vietnamese officials said.

The US Embassy declined to comment ahead of the meeting, the first between the two sides since five days of talks broke down in Singapore in November.

Washington has been trying to negotiate an agreement that will allow it to fund joint research into the scale of contamination by dioxin, the cancer-causing chemical contained in Agent Orange, which Hanoi says has blighted the lives of tens of thousands of Vietnamese.

An estimated 180 kg of dioxin was contained in the 57 million liters of Agent Orange, which US forces

sprayed during the war. Its continuing health effects are one of the most emotive outstanding issues between the former foes.

But the administration insists Hanoi must show greater scientific openness amid charges from some in Congress that it is exploiting the issue for propaganda purposes and as a means of getting its hands on US tax dollars.

Monday's talks got off to an unpropitious start, coming just a day after the Vietnamese minister refused a US scientist permission to continue his research into a dioxin hotspot just outside the commercial capital of Ho

Chi Minh City which he believes constitutes a "public health emergency."

Dr. Arnold Schecter, a public health specialist from the University of Texas who has been conducting dioxin research in Vietnam for the past 17 years, expressed outrage at the decision to bar him from taking fresh blood and food samples for analysis from a former US air base at Bien Hoa.

"If we found dioxin contamination on this scale just outside Los Angeles, we'd have an emergency team in there within 24 hours," he said.

During a research trip to the former air base in 1999, Schecter detected the

highest dioxin levels recorded anywhere in Vietnam since 1973, undermining scientists' previous assumption that the toxin was gradually broken down in the environment.

Declassified records have revealed that Bien Hoa was the site of a wartime accident in which between 5,000 and 7,000 gallons of Agent Orange were spilled.

Analysis of 25 samples collected by Schecter on research visits in 1999 and 2000, found that 24 of them had dangerously high levels of dioxin contamination.

"This is an epidemic, a public health crisis," he said, adding he had

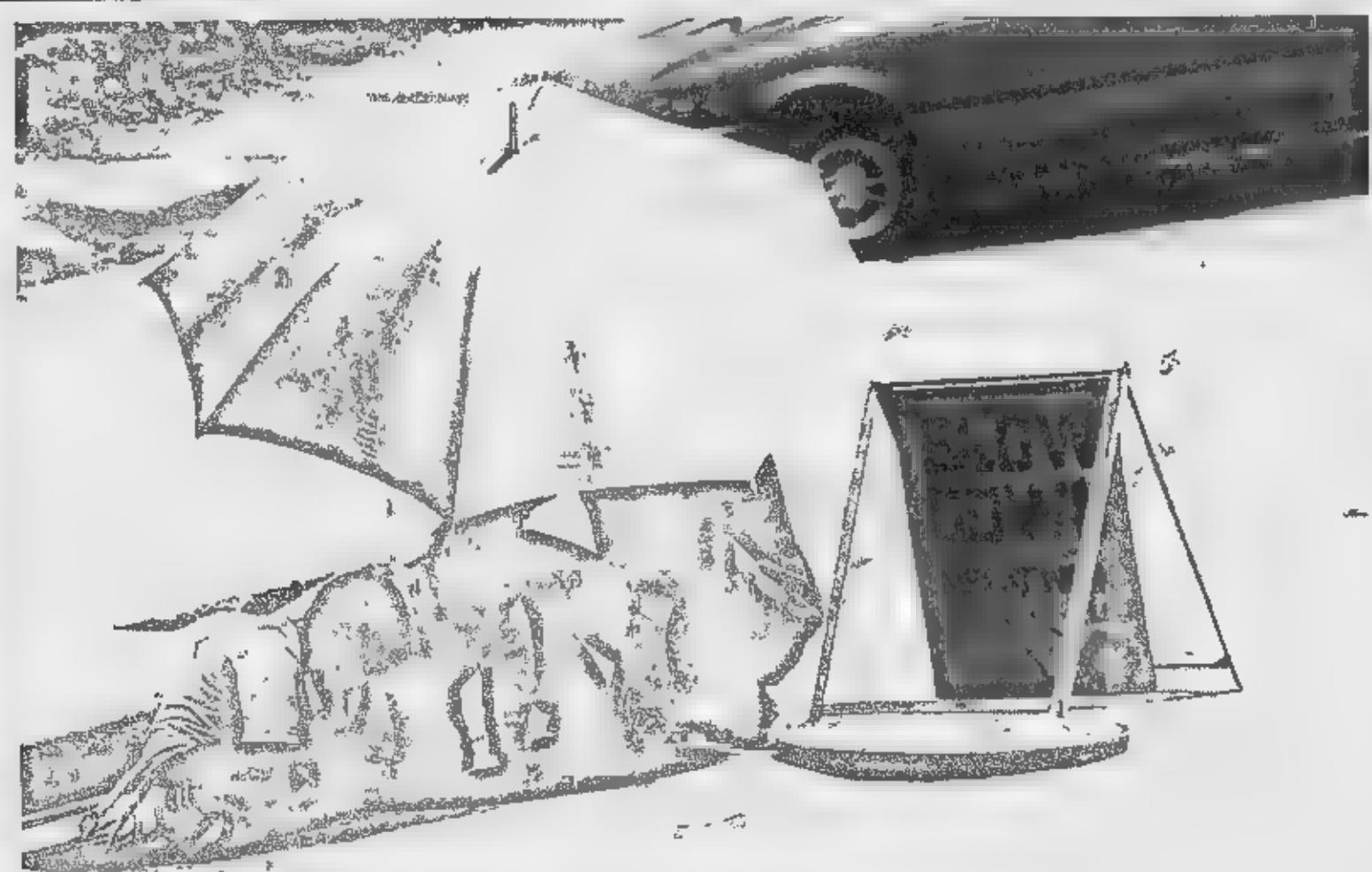
published his findings in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine earlier this year.

Schecter expressed astonishment at the attitude of the new Vietnamese Agent Orange working group headed by Minister Nha, saying he had received more cooperation from the communist authorities in the dark days of the Cold War.

The US scientist said it was vital that Hanoi rapidly changes its approach as a string of other suspected dioxin hotspots dotted the country and the appetite of Congress to fund a serious scientific survey of the health risks was rapidly waning.

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor



DROP IN THE BUCKET

Nothing is too cheap for two boys who dropped a toy in an uncovered manhole in Baguio City to leave to fate. A utility worker of a telephone firm joins them in the planning stage of what turned out to be an aborted recovery strategy

TOOTS SOBERANO

Comelec failure to settle feuds ushers in 'caretakers'

BACOLOD CITY—The failure of the Commission on Elections to settle election disputes in two towns in Negros Occidental has opened the gates to the appointment of "caretakers" to run the affairs of the towns' governments.

The Department of Interior and Local Government has appointed "caretakers" in the two Negros Occidental towns after the winners of the races for mayor and other officials in the towns were not proclaimed.

The proclamation was stopped due to complaints filed by losing candidates.

Leticia Jesto, DILG field officer in San Enrique town, was appointed caretaker of the municipality effective July 1 because not one of the winning candidates in the town has been proclaimed.

The terms of office of incumbent local officials expired June 30.

Vice Mayor Romulo Rhoes, Mogul of

EB Magallana town was designated acting mayor because the Comelec failed to proclaim the winning candidate for mayor.

Rosemary Caunca, provincial local government officer, said the appointments of Jesto and Mogul were in accordance with Memorandum Circular No. 2001-14 issued by Interior Secretary Jose Lima Jr. on Saturday.

Based on the memorandum, DILG field officers would take over in areas where no candidate was proclaimed winner until President Macapagal-Arroyo appoints officers in charge.

The rule of succession would apply in areas where some of the candidates have been proclaimed but not the winner for governor or mayor.

Earlier, Rexdito Reyes, DILG regional director for Western Visayas, said should there be no proclaimed winner for the post of governor, the winning candidate for vice governor would

assume the post.

The same ruling applies to the position of mayor.

The proclamation of winning candidates in San Enrique town, 37.3 kilometers south of Bacolod, was stalled by the pre-proclamation protest filed by losing candidate Julius Lanzar (Promidi).

Residents of San Enrique staged separate pickets at the Comelec provincial office in Bacolod and the San Enrique Municipal Hall to demand the proclamation of mayoral candidate Jilson Tub Ilara (ATUN) and the rest of the winning candidates in the municipality.

Tub Ilara said about 200 San Enrique residents participated in the picket at the Comelec provincial office.

Government offices in San Enrique, he added, were forced to shut down yesterday after about 1,000 residents

picketed the municipal hall.

In EB Magallana, Alfonso Gamboa (ATUN), who was ahead in the Comelec tally, vowed to file civil, administrative and criminal charges against the town's election officer, Susan Aranza, if she would not proclaim him this week.

He said Aranza could be held liable for violating Comelec Resolution No. 4493, which directs the board of canvassers to reconvene and proclaim winning candidates.

The resolution also provides that all pre-proclamation cases are deemed terminated at the start of the terms of newly elected officials on July 1, Gamboa said.

The board of canvassers in EB Magallana did not proclaim Gamboa as the town's elected mayor because of the protest filed by his opponent, Rex Depasacat (UNA), before the Comelec office in Manila.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Greenpeace seeks probe of hospital incinerator

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—International environmental group Greenpeace will conduct its own investigation to determine if the Austrian-made incinerator of a government-run hospital here meets international safety standards.

In a letter to the Iloilo City-based newspaper The Visayas Examiner, Van Hernandez, Greenpeace campaign director for Southeast Asia, said the incinerator might be one of the 25 units donated to the Philippines that were already phased out in Austria because they failed emission tests.

Hernandez also warned of the hazards posed by the waste facility to households and offices near it.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), he said, has identified medical waste incinerators as one of the major sources of

toxic dioxin emissions in the world.

Dioxins are proven carcinogens and are linked to various reproductive disorders such as birth defects, high infant mortality rates and deficiencies in the immune system, he added.

Hernandez said the government should not insist on a "technology" but environmental agencies have no way of monitoring. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, he said, does not have the capacity to monitor dioxin and heavy metal emissions from incinerators."

The incinerator, a grant from the Austrian government, was built in 1998 inside the compound of the Western Visayas Memorial Hospital in Mandurriao this city.

Last month, residents, patients and hospital personnel complained of noxious smoke coming out of the incinerator when it burns bio-medical wastes at night.

400 betting station owners cry harassment

OVER 400 operators of *jai alai* betting stations in the country are up in arms over what they said was a plan to put them out of business by distorting the country's laws.

In a statement, Adriano Nacorda, one of the complaining operators, said they would be forced to file charges against officials of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. if the Pagcor failed to protect their investments.

Nacorda said *jai alai* betting station owners are being mistaken for operators of Bingo-2-Ball, the controversial game that was stopped after it was linked to Charlie "Atong" Ang, a close friend of deposed President Estrada.

"Pagcor invited us to invest in their *jai alai* operations, requiring us to pour in about P1 million for each betting station," said Nacorda.

"When Pagcor invited us to invest, we expected the government to protect

mark your calendars for your date with

CORPORATE GIVEAWAYS 2001

July 4 - 7, 2001
World Trade Center Metro Manila

FREE ADMISSION !!!

July 5, Thursday

2 PM: Visual Merchandising Trends by Rino Delutin, Chief Exhibits & Design Division, CITEM
4 PM: Handmade Paper Products Demo by Cottage Industry Training Center

Also featuring:

3rd Annual Excellence Awards

3rd Annual Loyalty Awards

Official Media Partner

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Official Hotel

TRADERS HOTEL

Official Magazine

Entrepreneur

Official Radio Station

106.1 CROSSOVER

With special thanks to:
 LG
Bittersweet yours

DANEX

Marriott VACATIONCLUB INTERNATIONAL

OLME TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

A project of
WORLDDEXCO
WORLD EXHIBITIONS AND CONVENTIONS INC

EXHIBITORS

- ACTION HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
- AD-CUBES, INC. • AD-MAN RESOURCES, INC.
- ALL RECOGNITION • RG TROPHY MAKERS
- ASTECH PENNSON DISTRIBUTORS • BLOOMING VENTURES
- CANON MARKETING • CHAKRO TRADING
- CHRISTIE JOHNSON LEATHERGOODS • CLARK PARHAM
- MFG GOLF CORP • CONTINUOUS PROMOTION FOR CONSUMERS • CRAFTSLAND COLLECTIONS, INC. • CREATIVE DETAILS • CRISTANILLE INTERNATIONAL • DINSIOR MAGNETS • ELEGON ENTERPRISES • ENVIAY JANIN, [PHIL.] INC. • ENZO FERRERA COLLECTIONS • EXCEL GLASS, INC. • FILIPINAS ALFA CO., INC. • FIRST UNITED MARKETING • FOCUS GLOBAL, INC. • GCPHILIPPINES.COM • GLOBAL PREMIUMS, INC. • GCP CALENDAR • GRAND SUCCESS INT'L VENTURES CORP • ITC GENERAL MERCHANDISE • INNOVATIVE VISION DESIGNS • JAY C DESIGNS • KWA-KUCK W. INTERNATIONAL • LANCIANO LEATHERWARE CO. • LANE INTERNATIONAL • LG COLLARS • LOLLIPOP SAFETY BALLOONS CENTER • MANEL'S LEATHERGOODS
- MARRIOTT VACATION CLUB INT'L
- MEA-PACIFIC GRAPHIC DESIGN, INC. • MEHIO KING • MODERN ADS & PRIMO • NSBW TRADING
- NEGROS ISLAND NEWTRENDS INTERNATIONAL CORP
- MUR MERCHANDISING • OFFICE WORLD • P & S SALES
- PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER • PHOTOCROME PHILIPPINES • PREMIUM SOURCING GROUP • PRIMA CUERO CORP.
- PROMO SPECIALIST CORP • REAL VICTOR CORPORATION
- RENAISSANCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE • RS PHILIPPINE EXIMTRADE • 5 POINT PRODUCTS • SAFFY HANDICRAFTS
- STAR PAPER CORPORATION • STERLING PAPER PRODUCTS, ENT. INC. • SWEET GREENS COMPANY • THE CATALOG SHOPPER • THE LEATHER COLLECTION • TIE LINE • TIME-GIANT INC. • TRADERS HOTEL MANILA • TREASURE • PRIDE TRADING • UNISELL GROUP OF COMPANIES
- UNY MARKETING • VAN OLS GARMENTS • VY DOMINGO JEWELLERS INC. • WILL WIN TRADES
- WAZER INDUSTRIES, INC. • WONDER WORKS KITCHEN
- WORLD TRADE CENTER METRO MANILA
- WRAP SHOP • XIAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
- XTREME INNOVATIONS, INC.
- ZHENG RONG COMMERCIAL

For more details,
contact Worlddexco:

3B, Carmen II Bldg., 342 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City, Metro Manila
(632) 834-9798 / 891-8635 /
891-8639 Fax: (632) 834-0606
mktg@wdxco@edsa.com.ph /
wdx@alink.net / wdx@info.com.ph
Websites: worlddexco.com/ corporategiveawayonline.com/

NBI agent says Bicol needs P500M in anti-drug war

NAGA CITY—The government would have to spend at least P500 million a year in its war against illegal drugs in the Bicol region alone, a National Bureau of Investigation agent said here.

Pio Palencia, NBI special investigator who monitors and conducts operations against the illegal drug trade in the region, said in Legazpi City alone, at least P3.9 million worth of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) are being traded every month.

"It means that four to five kilos of shabu are being consumed in Legazpi City alone in one month," Palencia said.

He said Metro Manila channel illegal drugs in Bicol through suppliers who have direct contacts with drug syndicates.

The NBI officer said suppliers are careful not to bring in more than 200 grams of shabu per transaction to enable them to post bail if they are caught.

Palencia, who was responsible for several buy-bust operations that resulted in seven death penalty convictions and 40 life sentences from

1997 to 1998, said in every Bicol town there are at least two drug suppliers who buy shabu directly from sources in Manila.

He said the suppliers maintain their own network of outlets that sell shabu to runners.

The runners who channel the illegal drugs to users are the direct contacts of the outlets.

Palencia, however, said the government's resources to arrest the growing illegal drug trade are too limited to make even a dent in the drug trade.

He said the NBI's operation against illegal drugs, covering six provinces, is not given funds.

He said P500 million would ensure the success of the fight against illegal drugs in the region.

"The government has to act decisively to seal off entries of shabu from mainland China and other countries and dismantle drug syndicates. If this is not done, the campaign against the illegal drug trade will be an endless challenge," he said. Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

All-out war bomb dug up, injures 4

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front has urged the military to search for and destroy unexploded bombs that were dropped on MILF camps during last year's all-out war in Mindanao.

The appeal came after four Muslim civilians, including an 11-year-old boy, were seriously wounded when they accidentally plowed a 60-mm mortar shell in Matanog, Maguindanao, on Sunday.

Nasrodin, 11, Asim, 40 and Mokmad, 29, all surnamed Saligan and Maktad Mando, 39, suffered shrapnel wounds past 4 p.m. when the bomb exploded.

The village was inside a former MILF enclave straddling the towns of Matanog, Barira and Buldon, Maguindanao.

"The military should clear those areas of unexploded explosives," Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesman, said.

Kabalu said the MILF would formally request for the operation when peace talks resume in Kuala Lumpur later this month.

Army Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said soldiers had already detonated several unexploded bombs.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

Fire razes market

ANGELES CITY—A three-hour fire in this city's biggest public market killed two men and razed 627 stalls, a police station and a drop-in center for street children on Sunday. Two prisoners also escaped from the Kabayan Center 12 when the fire started at 2:45 a.m. in the Rizal section of the San Nicolas public market, police said. The fire, the third to hit the public market in the last 30 years, destroyed property worth about P30 million. The charred bodies of two men were found near the office of the Councilmen's League of Angeles City in the market. *Tonette Ongco, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Truck kills 3

MAGALANG, Pampanga—Three persons were killed while 18 others were hurt Friday when a speeding cargo truck sideswiped them along the Mabalacat-Magaang Road here. Four of the victims were waiting for a ride when the truck, driven by Amel Moron, 31, bumped them. The four were thrown into an open canal resulting in the death of Clarita Samonte, 32, and year-old Senaya Samonte. The truck sped toward the town center but bumped a parked jeepney, which fell on its side. The jeepney's 16 passengers were hurt. The truck also pinned down Alexander Garcia, 39, killing him instantly. *Jean Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Kalinga's hope

TABUK, Kalinga—The reelection by an overwhelming majority of Rep. Laurence B. Bacnang is expected to speed up the growth of Kalinga province into one of the emerging markets in the Cordillera. Running under the People Power Coalition-Liberal Party banner, Bacnang got 42,236 votes while his two rivals got a total of 15,114 votes, or nearly 73 percent of the total voter cast in the May 14 elections. "As the Cordillera's most senior representative, Congressman Bacnang should be able to do a lot for our province," said Camilo Lammawin Jr., mayor-elect of Tabuk.

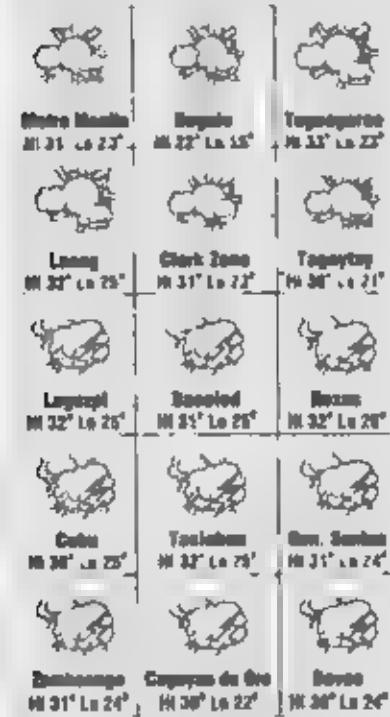
FTAAs denied

NAGA CITY—The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has denied the applications for financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAAs) of three mining firms, thus, sparing 233,928 hectares in Bicol from exploration. Reynaldo Juan, Bicol MGB director, said Global Ore Minerals Inc., Golden Falcon Mineral Exploration Corp. and Gullwang Mining Inc. failed to submit environmental safety requirements under the Mining Act of 1995. Juan said the three foreign mining companies were applying to explore and mine gold, copper, zinc and silver deposits in lands straddling 13 towns in Camarines Sur and Albay. The MGB also cancelled 60 applications for mineral production sharing agreements covering 72,654 hectares. *Jean Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Source: PAGASA



IFUGAO TRANSITION

New gov uses symbols to raise hopes

BY BEN MOSES EBREO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAGAWE, Ifugao—The traditional attire of Ifugao has taken center stage in this province's new administration.

In an expression of pride and vision for his province's development, incoming Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. made use of the G-string to symbolize the way he said he intends to govern.

Baguilat, 36, chose to wear his native G-string, which he described as the "foremost of all essentials and the formal attire of the Ifugao," during the turnover and oath-taking ceremony of newly elected provincial leaders here Saturday.

Baguilat, accompanied by several Ifugao men, emerged from the provincial capitol and proceeded to the venue of the ceremony accompanied by native songs, dances and rituals.

Thousands of Ifugao cheered him on.

Ousgoing Gov. Ildefonso Dulianay failed to attend Baguilat's inauguration and preside over the turnover ceremony as he was arrested Thursday by National Bureau of Investigation agents on charges of extorting money from government contractors.

In a statement read by provincial legal officer Nicacio Baguilat, Dulianay apologized for his absence in the program.

Dulianay called the NBI accusation "baseless." "Circumstances have intervened which all of you and us for that matter have not expected. I am doing well. Despite the allegations that are still to be (proven), I am still innocent as far as the law is concerned. I still love you and worried about all of you," Dulianay said.

He expressed confidence that in the end, "the truth will come out and my name will be cleared and the manufactured stories will be exposed."

Native garments

Baguilat wore native garments and accessories such as Ifugao headresses, necklaces and pendants and carried spears and native weapons.

"The Ifugao attire will serve as

a beacon (of) what I intend to do for the next three years," he said during his inaugural speech.

He said the "Pinukha," which is used for keeping betel nuts or "Momma," would serve as a charm to promote peace and love in the province and as an offering of reconciliation among political opponents and their supporters.

He said forgiveness and humility would guide him in his governance and his bid to unite the province and put it on the right track.

He said the "Hillalung" and "Gimutu," a double-bladed bolo with a wooden scabbard that symbolizes industry and courage, would be adopted as a measure of performance among the province's public servants.

A basic farm tool of the Ifugao, the "Hillalung," must always be sharp and continuously used and symbolize efforts to empower farmers.

This, he said, would be done through the marketing of the farmers' products.

He said the establishment of an agro-industrial trade center in the province would be the focus of his agricultural development concerns.

Baguilat said the growth of agriculture in the province would be supported by infrastructure projects, such as farm-to-market roads, and the improvement of existing roads.

"Road graveling and maintenance projects shall be the least of our priorities since these projects are only temporary (and) often enrich the contractors and their benefactors," he said.

Territory

Baguilat said the "Pongol," a native headdress symbolizing the courage and manliness of an Ifugao warrior, would be used as a symbol of Ifugao's fight for its territorial integrity and rights.

The province's ancestral domain areas, he said, is being endangered by Benguet, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Mt. Province through boundary encroachment.

He said he would strive to collect some P65 million in franchise taxes from the operation of the Magat hydroelectric power plant. The payment of taxes was delayed due to a boundary dispute with

Benguet.

Baguilat also wore the "Balmuk" and "Tang-go," gold pendants and



THIRTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD Teodoro Baguilat Jr takes his oath as new governor of Ifugao province in a ceremony rich in symbols, promises and hope

INN MOSES EBREO

Isabela province.

"We have the documents to prove that a bigger chunk of Magat belongs to the Ifugao," he said.

He said the "Pongol," "Gimutu" and "Hillalung" would be used as symbols in his fight against rampant robbery along the province's national highway.

"I will immediately convene the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) to stop this problem. Otherwise, heads will roll in the provincial police command," he said.

The "Baghe," a ceremonial spear symbolizing integrity and trustworthiness and is used by Ifugao emissaries, would be used as a symbol to promote the province, home of the world renowned rice terraces.

Baguilat also wore the "Balmuk" and "Tang-go," gold pendants and

necklaces, to symbolize wealth. He said while Ifugao are not wealthy, "first and foremost, we have our children (who are) far more valuable than the riches of the industrialized world."

He urged Ifugao to double their investments in child-friendly programs like health, nutrition and education to ensure that the basic rights of Ifugao children are protected.

Part of this program, he said, is the reduction of the number of the province's malnutrition cases until 2004. He also vowed to focus on primary health care programs and services by hiring more personnel in the villages.

He also vowed to build more health centers and improve existing hospitals.

He said hospitals would be built in the remote towns of Asipulo and

Aguinaldo. To lessen the burden on local governments and to instill the spirit of cooperativism, these hospitals would be run by a cooperative and managed by residents, he said.

Environment, tourism

On the environment, Baguilat said he would focus on policies that would maximize the use of the province's resources and conserve those that would be needed by future generations.

He said he would call for a gathering of woodcarvers, environment officials, environmentalist groups and provincial officials to draw up guidelines that would ease the burden on wood carvers in getting permits to gather raw materials and transport their products.

He said the guidelines would include a requirement to plant trees.

"The policy shall guarantee that for every tree cut, 30 or more seedlings shall be planted and taken care of in exchange," he said.

Baguilat said he would use the "Bayaw-ung," a nobleman's blanket and symbol of moral authority and Ifugao nobility, to establish moral ascendancy.

"In order for your governor to be truly honorable, he must attempt to establish moral ascendancy in the government bureaucracy. We will (stop) graft and corruption in this provincial government," he said.

Baguilat said the "Binuglan" or G-string, the basic attire of Ifugao men and the most enduring symbol of their culture, would serve as his inspiration in establishing schools and heritage centers that would teach traditional performing arts and indigenous crafts and cultural subjects to Ifugao.

Among the subjects are Ifugao history, mythology, loom-weaving and wine-making, he said.

Under this project, Baguilat said the first school of living traditions would be launched on July 11 in his native Kangan town where he served for two terms as mayor.

"To remember the policy directions and priorities of your governor, just visualize him in his native attire... I may (not meet) all of your expectations but I assure you I will serve you well," he said.

JDV allies with Estrada backers for top House post

BACOLOD CITY—The Nationalist People's Coalition of Estrada ally Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Rep. Jose de Venecia have entered into an alliance to boost De Venecia's chance of becoming Speaker again.

But Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada (Lakas) said the alliance is "solely for the purpose" of giving De Venecia the top House post.

Lozada said the alliance won't hold in the provinces, where the Lakas and the NPC are in conflict over various issues.

Lozada said he does not believe that President Macapagal-Arroyo played a part in forming the Lakas coalition in the NPC to help De Venecia capture the

House top post.

"It's just really between Congressmen de Venecia and (Eduardo) Cojuangco," Lozada said. Cojuangco was one of the closest allies of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Cojuangco, who heads the NPC, also backs the United Negros Alliance (UNA) whose candidates captured most of the top elective posts in Negros Occidental.

Lozada belongs to a bloc in the House that calls itself progressive. It is composed of 41 congressmen from different political parties who earlier objected to De Venecia being Speaker again.

On Thursday, however, the pro-

gressive bloc decided they would support De Venecia on condition that they would continue to exist as a conscience bloc in the House.

Lozada said they agreed to support De Venecia for the sake of unity in the Lakas-NLKD. But the bloc, he said, also demanded three things that De Venecia should agree to immediately.

These were, transparency in the affairs of the House, giving strong weight on qualifications in the selection of chairs and vice chairs of House committees, and that the alliance would not hold beyond De Venecia's ambition to become Speaker again.

"If De Venecia does not honor our agreement that was all verbal, then the

fight goes on," Lozada said.

A member of the so-called conscience bloc had withdrawn his bid to become Speaker.

Cebu City Rep. Raoul del Mar (Promdi), however, said he would still fight for new politics in the House.

De Mar said he had no choice but to quit the race after President Macapagal apparently supported De Venecia.

De Mar said during a meeting between leaders of the conscience bloc and the President in Macapagal last Friday, she acknowledged reports that De Venecia already had the numbers.

"I got the impression she was in effect conceding that De Venecia would

now be considered the PPC candidate although she stressed that she was maintaining a hands-off policy on the issue," De Mar said in a statement.

Also present in the meeting were other aspirants for the speakership—Representatives Florencio Abad (Balikes), Brown Sandoval (Palawan) and Carlos Padilla (Nueva Vizcaya).

He said the President appealed to them to remain in the majority to prevent division.

"The intramural within the PPC for the House leadership should now be over and it's time to heed the President's appeal (for unity)," Del Mar said. *Carla Gomez and Edna Benedicto, PDI Visayas Bureau*

New strain of dengue plagues Davao

BY GERRY T. PAGHARION
PDI Visayas Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A new strain of dengue fever is plaguing this city, packing in patients in a government hospital here.

Dr. Jean Tay, chief of clinics of the government-owned Davao Medical Center, said they have been receiving a rising number of patients, majority of whom are children, since March this year.

"The new strain seems to be very virulent," she said.

But Tay said doctors have no means of knowing what kind of strain they are confronted with since the technology needed for this is not available locally.

"The money we would spend on equipment I would rather spend on prevention," she said.

She said there are no data yet on how many people have died from the new dengue strain, but she estimated that over 300 people have been stricken by the virus in the last four months.

"The minimum (number of deaths) could be three of the four or five who suffered from dengue shock syndrome," she said.

Dengue shock syndrome is the worst stage of dengue fever. At this stage, the mortality rate is high.

But Tay said the patients who were admitted in the hospital had just mild and not life threatening cases. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Malpractice victim's ma sues docs, nurses

BY GERRY T. PAGHARION
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—The mother of a victim of alleged medical malpractice has sued an executive and three personnel of the government-run Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital (RMPH) for the death of her son.

Charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide were RMPH chief officer Dr. Evelyn Albaña, attending physician Rea Roldan, nurse Reyna May Malan and nursing aid Rhea Aguiluz.

Jonna Leonor, mother of victim John Vic, filed the complaint at the City Prosecutor's Office on June 20.

She claimed that her son, who was confined for intestinal paroxysm at the hospital, died on July 16 last year after Aguiluz injected

an oral suspension into John Vic's dextrose.

Attached to her complaint was a copy of the report made by the provincial government's fact-finding committee that found Malan and Aguiluz liable for the boy's death.

GMA gives P10B to AFP

(From page A1)

and not next year, as she had earlier announced, after learning that the current P5.4-billion budget would only be spent by the end of the year.

She said she had instructed the budget department to release P5.4 billion to the fund, and the finance and defense departments to find the balance of P4.6 billion to raise the total modernization outlay to P10 billion.

"Earlier when I spoke to the (APP), I said that when you have spent one-third of this P5.4 billion, I would replenish it. But now I realized that this could not be spent until the end of the year, because it's only then that the bidding process will be over. Therefore, I have to revise my commitment," Ms Macapagal said.

Her announcement elicited applause from officials of the military's four branches of service, airmen and civilian employees gathered at the PAF presidential hangar.

Sell presidential plane

Ms Macapagal also said she had directed Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to sell the presidential plane and donate the proceeds to the PAF modernization program.

"With only one C-130 in operation, the Air Force has proudly achieved so much way beyond the endurance of man and machine. What more if you have more C-130?" the President said, noting that the lone transporter was being used not only to move troops and relief goods but also to respond to disasters such as the recent eruptions of Mayon Volcano in Albay.

"The transfer on a grant basis of one more C-130 is now going through final processing by the US Congress, and we are assured of approval. You can expect to have another C-130 soon, courtesy of our friends in the US," she said, adding that five upgraded Huey helicopters were also arriving in the next few months under the same setup.

In his remarks, General Defen-

sor stressed the need for a modern air defense system.

"It was precisely because we did not have this kind of capability that those extremists in Basilan and Jolo were able to create the ugly chapters in our national life," he said, referring to the Abu Sayyaf.

Ms Macapagal once more thanked the PAF for its role in People Power II, which ousted Joseph Estrada and installed her as President.

Defensor is a brother of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a staunch Estrada ally. He joined then AFP Chief of Staff Reyes when the latter withdrew the military's support from Estrada.

Ceremony

The anniversary ceremony was highlighted by the traditional high-speed flight of PAF fighter planes, a pass and review of the PAF forces, and the presentation to the President of the "command helmet" or "Helmet of Freedom."

The PAF men and women who saw action in battles against insur-

gents and threats to the country's territorial integrity were given medals and awards.

The President, dressed in a barong, rode an open jeep marked "Commander in Chief" in the traditional trooping of the line. She was accompanied by Defensor and PAF ground commander Brig. Gen. Augusto Francia.

The ceremony would have been perfect if not for a couple of hitches.

The jeep carrying the President and Defensor made two false starts during the trooping of the line. The second time the jeep did not start, Defensor alighted and led the President to walk the few meters to the stage.

And then there was the parachute of a skydiving airman that got caught in the perimeter fence of the presidential hangar.

Nevertheless, the President said she was happy to be back at the Villamor Air Base, from where, she noted, she took off every week en route to her official destinations.

Soldiers given option to own land in cemetery

By JULIET L. JAVELLANA

unveiling to withdraw an eviction order issued earlier, and which was strongly protested by the families of active soldiers.

She said the proclamation would allow the carving out of a portion of the national shrine for housing the soldiers and their families.

"This proclamation will give the chance for our soldiers living in the designated area to buy the land and therefore be squatters no more," Ms Macapagal said, adding.

"What is more important is the well-being of the living soldiers, even as we pay homage to the soldiers who have died, including the departed commanders in chief like my father who are buried in the Libungan ng mga Bayani. I know that my father in his grave will be honored to have living soldiers, not just dead soldiers, as his next-door neighbors."

In her proclamation, the President excluded at least six lots in Taguig from the coverage of Proclamation No. 208 dated May 1967, which established the national shrine and earmarked the prime lots for soldiers' housing.

Baguio club security . . .

(From page A1)

Bidner and Maximo Ilusorio argued that they were simply "protecting (their) father's primordial rights to his life, his liberty and to his property."

'Bomb threat'

The BCC security chief refused to give any information about the "bomb threat" even as he rigorously imposed a BCC management directive to bar the INQUIRER from the club's premises.

Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, Baguio police director, assured the INQUIRER that there was no bomb threat at the club, "at least, none that was officially reported to the local police."

Bumanglag said the BCC management had requested the police to help "calm things down" as Ilusorio family members prepared to hold funeral rites for the patriarch today.

Ilusorio's ashes, which had been reportedly taken to the club as early as Sunday, are to be scattered today on the club's golf course.

The INQUIRER learned that the widow and the children allied with her have chosen to remain in Manila to avoid a confrontation with family members hostile to them.

Cancelled mass

A funeral Mass is to be held thus morning at the Baguio Cathedral.

A funeral Mass was earlier planned for 10 a.m. yesterday at the St. Joseph Church here, but was cancelled at 9:30 a.m. by a "tall Chinese mestizo," a church employee said.

Many Baguio residents and club members said they would stay away from the ceremony, obviously wary that it could end in yet another family scandal.

"The news about the family quarrel disturbs us and we really do not want to be in the middle of this. It has caused the club to become polarized over the issue. Members were expected to take sides and the few who didn't want to were immediately marked out as enemies," said one BCC member who had been invited to attend today's funeral Mass.

The family feud exploded in public two years ago in a series of criminal complaints, counter-charges and custody suits that reached all the way up to the Supreme Court.

Club members are well acquainted with the 1999 civil suit filed by Ilusorio's widow, Erlinda Kalaw-Ilusorio, against her own children for allegedly preventing her from getting access to her husband.

Mrs. Ilusorio and her children Maricetta, Shereen and Ramon have accused siblings Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap, Maximo and Ma. Erlinda Ilusorio-Bidner of deliberately concealing the patriarch from his wife.

Family feud

An article which appeared in the INQUIRER's July 1 issue cited Erlinda's autobiography, "On the Edge of Heaven," where the widow said the family squabble was a battle over Ilusorio's fortunes.

Ilusorio's reported assets of P300 million are distributed among his heirs in the Baguio Country Club, Fidelity Farms and real estate properties here and in Central Luzon, as well as earnings from blue-chip stocks.

Ilusorio is also said to own shares in the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. because of his reported closeness to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

In a Dec. 15, 1999 letter to the INQUIRER Northern Luzon Bureau, Sylvia Ilusorio, Ma. Erlinda Ilusorio

(From page A1)

read this in a television interview.

"That is not true. He (Lajjal) is not with the MILF," Kabulu also said.

But in Manila, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adam, spokesperson of the Armed Forces, identified Lajjal as a battalion commander of the MILF in Basilan.

Adam said information coming from AFP ground commanders appeared to show that the Abu Sayyaf and the MILF were at odds "over an agreement, whatever that is."

The self-styled negotiator, who had said that Chua and Bautista would be released in 48 hours, said other hostages under the care of the Lantawan-based Abu Sayyaf leader Isulon Hapilon would also be freed.

"This will be a package deal. Not only two but six hostages will be released maybe in two to three days from now," he said.

He named the others as Dos Palmas hostages Angie Montealegre and Ma. Fe Rosadeno and Lamutan nurses Ediborah Yap and Rerna Malonzo.

"(There's a) bonus. (Let's hope) the release (will proceed)," he said.

Sobero

Adan dismissed a claim made by MILF ground commanders that Guillermo Sobero—one of the three Americans taken by the Abu Sayyaf on May 27 from Dos Palmas resort in Paawan—was still alive.

"We have no reason to believe he is alive," Adan said, and cited the testimony of freed hostage Francis Ganzon that on the night of June 11, Sobero was tied up, separated from the other hostages, and was never seen again.

On June 12, Sabaya announced that his group had beheaded Sobero as an "Independence Day gift" to the government.

While Sobero's body has yet to be found, the AFP now presumes him dead.

"If Sobero is alive, then well and good," Adan said. But he challenged the MILF to produce the American's "living body" to prove its claim.

Struggling with grief

In Corona, California, the Asso-

ciated Press quoted Sobero's estranged wife as saying that she was taking strength from her children even as she struggled with her grief.

"There are moments where I feel I can't do this . . . where I just want to walk out," Fanny Sobero said in an interview published Sunday in the Riverside Press-Enterprise. "Then I see my babies' faces, and I know I'm the only one they have."

But Fanny Sobero believes her husband is alive.

She said her life focus had shifted from raising her three young boys and running the family's waterproofing business to juggling calls from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and State Department, and the media.

All the while, she said, she was struggling to pay her bills and cope with conflicting reports about whether her husband was dead or alive.

She said she had told her two older sons, Paul and Andre, ages six and three, that their father was in an accident in the Philippines and was badly hurt.

Louis, who just turned two, is too young to grasp the situation, she said.

Divorcing

Fanny said Paul cried for the first time last week, and Andre had also cried and demanded to see his father.

She said she still cared for her husband although they were in the process of divorcing. She described him as "a loving father."

She said she was focusing on the present and striving to provide a sense of stability for her children.

"In the last week I realized that I have to go back and start to get our lives back on a routine, for our kids' sake," Fanny said. "They're so needy of me right now. I realize that I need to concentrate on them."

Arrests

Three more suspected Abu Sayyaf members, Mupin Limborg and Yacub Aiyub, were arrested by authorities on Saturday while they were attending a death anniversary in Tumahibong, Sumisip, Basilan.

Col. Danilo Servando, AFP Southern Command spokesperson, said Limborg and Aiyub, who fell

into the hands of the Task Group Tornado of the 103rd Army Brigade, were identified as among those who staged the March 2000 kidnapping of teachers and students in Sumisip.

Residents who noticed the presence of the two were the ones who quickly informed the military, Servando said.

In Sulu, Abu Sayyaf member Jackarias "Jack" Abdurrahim, 25 and a resident of Bus-Bus, was also arrested by members of Task Force Tornado.

He is said to be 55th in the military's order of battle.

In Patikul, Sulu, soldiers belonging to the 6th Scout Ranger Company and the 4th Scout Ranger Battalion engaged some 60 armed members of the Abu Sayyaf in a 30-minute battle on Sunday morning.

A soldier identified as Pfc Rommel C. Basa was wounded during the battle. The military claimed that the bandits also suffered casualties.

Odd man out

The MILF is playing the odd man out role in war-torn Basilan.

On one hand, it has ordered its fighters to arrest Abu Sayyaf gunmen who are the subject of more than a month of military operations.

Yet at the same time, the MILF has instructed its warriors not to allow pursuing government forces to encroach on its bases, and to engage soldiers if necessary.

Asked if MILF fighters would pursue military forces that would attack their positions, Kabulu said: "That would be at the discretion of our field commanders."

Scapegoat

"They (the AFP) are using close to 10,000 men, but their mission has yet to be accomplished. They said we helped the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan. We never helped them. They are using us as a scapegoat."

Kabulu said MILF fighters would go on active defense if pursuing government forces hit their bases in Basilan.

On paper, there is a truce between the government and the MILF as the two parties have resumed peace negotiations.

Kabulu said: "They (the MILF fighters) have to fight back. That is the existing order, although we have (an MILF-declared) suspension of offensive military action in place."

The MILF declared the suspension of offensives more than a month ago, in response to the Macapagal administration's own declaration of a suspension.

Asked if MILF fighters would pursue military forces that would attack their positions, Kabulu said: "That would be at the discretion of our field commanders."

Challenge

Kabulu said that if the government believed that the MILF was working in tandem with the Abu Sayyaf, it should bring up the matter in the second round of peace talks scheduled to start in the third week of July in Kuala Lumpur.

He said the members of the government peace panel did not raise the issue in the first round of talks in Tripoli "because they have no justification that we are indeed supporting the Abu Sayyaf."

Kabulu said the MILF might protest the military's continued allegations of a tie-up with the Abu Sayyaf "at the proper time."

Casilio said the government should investigate the "stealthily announced and implemented oil price hike."

He lamented that the Estrada and Macapagal administrations had refrained from investigating the "documented" overpricing, transfer pricing and tax evasion schemes committed by Shell, Coltex and Petro.

Casilio said they had received reports that oil firms make at least P20 billion in profits yearly through overpricing.

In response to intelligence reports that more protest actions are scheduled against the oil firms, the Makati City police force has been placed on alert.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District Office director, said he placed the Makati City police force on heightened alert to prevent any untoward incident from happening in the country's financial district, where the country's top three oil firms hold their respective main offices.

Petro has an office on Buendia Avenue, Petronas Shell on Valero Street and Calex Philippines on Ayala Avenue.

In Lucena City, a coalition of farmers' organizations denounced the fuel price increases as "cruel and insensitive" to the plight of the Filipino people.

"Don't they realize that the Filipino people still suffer from expenses brought about by the school opening?" Rene Cerilla, president of Ugmayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon, said.

With reports from Philip C. Tabata and Andrea Trinidad-Echeverria in Manila and Delfina T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Stealth

Bayan secretary general Teodoro

(From page A1)

Piston, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Kilusang Mayo Uno and Kilusang Magbubukid Pilipinas (KMP) staged a two-hour rally in front of the main office of Petronas Shell in Makati City.

They demanded a price rollback, claiming that greed was the primary motivation behind the price increases.

Instead of a price rollback, the public may yet get another round of fuel price increases.

Phased increase

German connection

IN terms of international exposure, local amateur Latin dance champions Belinda Adora and Bong Marquez pale in comparison to their rivals who have too much experience, skill and talent in world-class competitions.

That is why the Dance Sports Council of the Philippines, headed by tireless Becky Garcia, is leaving nothing to chance by providing Belinda and Bong, the Philippine representatives to the World Games in Akita, Japan, with a German coach who will give them special training for the international dancefest next month.

"We need foreign coaches badly," said Garcia. "It will entail a lot of money to bring them here, but we need their presence in the country."

One of these foreign coaches is renowned German dance coach and adjudicator Wolfgang Opitz. Aside from polishing the skills of Belinda and Bong, Opitz will also head the panel of foreign judges that will adjudicate the DSEPF's fifth mid-year ranking and competition for the Asian Cup on July 14 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The other judges will come from Hong Kong and Singapore.

Since 1996, the council has made waves in the international dance scene. And the country's coming participation in the World Games in August is proof enough that dancesport in the Philippines has really taken enormous strides when ranged against the other dance organizations which have been in existence for ages.

"We never have anything like this," said a beaming Becky Garcia, who also chairs the education and culture commission of the Philippine Olympic Committee. "We are barely five years old yet we have already competed against the world's leading dancers. And our Latin dancers are now even ranked among the best in Asia."

"At long last, dancesport in the Philippines has come of age," stressed council chair lawyer Noel Laran.

"Furthermore," said council vice president Jun Herrera, "Filipino dance athletes are expected to garner more points in their international campaigns because they now have their own modern training center at the Philsports Arena, courtesy of the Philippine Sports Commission."

Last year, the council staged several nationwide competitions, conducted workshops to upgrade the standard of local techniques and took part in Asian dancefests and international congresses. Local dancesport aficionados also had the good fortune of seeing world champions perform here, such as standard dance professional pair Svetlana and Oleg Zenkevitch of Russia, pro Latin champions Jukka Haupponen and Sirpa Stora of Finland and European Latin standouts Jason Roditis and Tonis Kosovitch of Greece. While the celebrated Marcel de Rijk, chair of the Dance Teachers Committee of World Dancers and Dance Sports Council; and Dutch professional Latin champions Ian Waite and Niamha Panuna also came and showed their savvy here.

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

Dacia MBA's Hardcourt Hero

THOUGH he lost to his Fil-Am teammate Raffy Reavis in last year's Rookie of the Year honors, Bruce Dacia has kept the high intensity and latent talent that caught the fancy of MBA fans and die-hard supporters of the reigning National Champion Andok's San Juan Knights.

This 23-year-old high-leaper from Polomolok, South Cotabato, the current leader in the Most Improved Player award derby, is

slowly but surely earning recognition as the sixth man in the Knights' roster.

During the Knights' last two wins, the 6-foot-2 off-guard, who was a former player of the University of Visayas Lancers, was instrumental in putting the Knights on top of the team standings with the Negros Slammers. Both have 6-2, win-loss slates.

During the Knights' 137-105 revenge win

against Cebuano Lluhiller, Dacia topscored for the defending champions with 25 points. He had 2 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 steal, earning him the MBA Press Corps recognition as Hardcourt Hero of the Week for June 24 to June 29.

And even before their 108-75 conquest of the Gems, Dacia also contributed 20 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 block and 2 steals in the Knights' 114-90 win over the Soccsargen Marlin.

Dacia is a former teammate of former Cebu local hotshot Dondoy Montiveros in Sunprise at the Cebu Basketball League where he was named as the tournament MVP in 1998.

Knights' assistant coach Allan Borromeo and team owner Sandy Javier spotted him and gave him an offer he could not refuse to play for San Juan last year.

The rest, as the cliché goes, is history.

Much better UP this time, says coach

THE COACH of the University of the Philippines Fighting Maroons has guaranteed he'll have a much better team in the coming UAAP season.

That's because when the 64th edition of the UAAP fires off on July 14 at the Araneta Coliseum, UP will have three things it didn't have last year—more preparation, a legitimate center and the confidence to finish strongly at the endgame.

"I was appointed coach last year, mga two weeks before the start of the actual tournament, so obviously we didn't have the kind of preparation we had like this year," said coach Ryan Gregorio, whose wards finished tied for sixth in last year's tourney with a 4-10 slate.

The youthful UP mentor, who also acts as Eric Altamirano's assistant at Purefoods in the PBA, said lack of preparation was the cause of their failure to perform well in the endgames.

For the record, 6 of the Maroons' 10 defeats last season were by 4 points or less. Four of those six defeats came against three of the teams that made it to the Final Four.

Learning from those lessons, UP has embarked on a mission to improve on their skills and gain more experience during this year's pre-season.

UP finished second to MLQU in the Philippine Youth Basketball League. It landed third in their bracket in the Fr. Martin's Cup, where they beat the tournament's Top 2 teams—FEU and San Sebastian.

"With the kind of preparation we had, hopefully by the time the actual tournament starts, meron na kaming confidence to win games especially in the endgame," said Gregorio, adding a semifinal slot for UP could be a possibility this year.

"The Final Four is always a dream," said Gregorio. "I think that's attainable with the kind of confidence we built during the pre-season. Nag-mature na ang laing karunungan ng players. And actually ang isang kulang lang talaga namin last year, tyong inside presence."

Gregorio said the acquisition of 6-foot-4 Kenneth Robin, a recruit from Don Bosco in Cebu, filled the void at the paint.

Also expected to play key roles for UP are Patrick Madarang, who is back on the roster to finish off his UAAP career hopefully in style, Mike Bravo, Robson Bonancini, Mark Jomales and Xavier Nunag.

The other players on the Maroons' lineup are Vicente Arnal Jr., Toni Almeda, Jireh Ibaez, Bruce Queral, Alberto Guidaben Jr., Joson Cervantes, Rodel Celio, Abby Santos, Rebullida Jr. and their only rookie, Gino Ferrer.

Cameroon qualifies

YAOUNDE, Cameroon—Cameroon and South Africa became the first nations in qualifying to earn berths in next year's World Cup, and four-time champion Brazil stumbled again, losing 1-0 in Uruguay. The United States, meanwhile, lost 1-0 in Mexico on Sunday, its first defeat in six games in the final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region. The Americans (4-1-1) dropped out of first place behind Costa Rica (4-1-1), which won 3-2 at third-place Honduras (2-2). Mauricio Solis scored the go-ahead goal in the 82nd minute at Tegucigalpa. The top three nations qualify in the CONCACAF region.

RP Embassy joins German cagefest

THE BONES & Bears team of the Philippine embassy in Germany participated in the 3rd Filipino Catholic Community Basketball Tournament held in Essen, Germany, last month.

Coached by Ambassador Jose Abeto Zuide, Bones & Bears dumped the Wild Wings, 40-13, but bowed to the Caviteños, 39-24.

Members of Bones & Bears, which returned to Berlin with two trophies, including one for the most disciplined team, were Ambassador Zuide, consul general Joey Jimeno, consuls Sophie Confiado and Gary Auxilian, protocol office Ronnie Villanueva, Jamil

Fathers Dietmar Weber and Manay Tamayo were the prime movers of the FCC league, which brought together Filipino community organizations from all over North Rhine Westphalia.

Alcantara faces Chio for Milo netfest crown

VALENCIA, Bukidnon—Francis Casey Alcantara of Cagayan de Oro ousted Teofilo Salomon, 6-4, 6-2, and will meet Inatao's Bobby Chio, a 6-4, 6-2 winner over Jopy Mamaway for the boys' 12-under division crown in the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop here.

Alcantara guns for a rare double when the Grade 3 Xavier student tangles with Darwin Realista of Butuan, who edged Robert Ortellano, 6-3, 7-5, in the unisex 10-under bracket.

No final-round collapse for Mickelson at Hartford

CROMWELL, Connecticut—Phil Mickelson overcame his history of final-round collapses, shooting a 2-under-par 68 Sunday for a one-stroke victory over Billy Andrade in the Greater Hartford Open.

Booming long drives and staying out of trouble most of the day, Mickelson finished at 16-under 264.

He earned \$558,000 for his 19th career victory to push his season total to \$3,569,724, second behind Tiger Woods. He also has three

runner-up finishes and four thirds this year. He began the round with a one-stroke lead over David Berganio Jr., after shooting a 61 on Saturday—tying the course record and two strokes better than his previous tour best.

King, 45, wins

ABSECON, New Jersey—Betsy King proved at the ShopRite LPGA Classic that golfers in their 40s can still compete against players half their age. King, 45, became the third American

to win an LPGA event this year, shooting a 4-under-par 67 for a 201 total. The other American winners were in their 40s, too: Juli Inkster, 41, and Rosie Jones, 40.

Montgomery prevails

CORK, Ireland—Colin Montgomerie is not only back to winning, he also predicts the winning score.

Accurately. After his opening 8-under-par course record 63 in the Irish Open on Thursday,

Montgomerie predicted the winning total would

be twice 8-under plus two—and so it proved. Sunday, Montgomerie scored his first European Tour victory in 57 weeks, shooting a final round 66 to finish 18-under-par on 266.

Fleisher seniors champ

PEABODY, Massachusetts—A year after losing a final-round lead to a red-hot rival, Bruce Fleisher won the U.S. Senior Open by a stroke Sunday for his first major title as Jack Nicklaus and other challengers fell off the pace.

ATHENS, Greece—Cuba's Orlinda Menendez set a new world record in the women's javelin Sunday with a throw of 71.54 meters in the one-day Vardinoyannis athletics meet held on the Greek island of Crete.

Menendez bettered the mark of 69.48 meters held by Norway's Trine Solberg-Hallestad since July 28, 2000. Solberg-Hallestad is an Olympic and two-time world champion. The record was set during the meet in the port city of Rethymnon, an annual event held in memory of Pavlos Vardinoyannis, a member of the Vardinoyannis shipping family.

Javelin record

ATHENS, Greece—Cuba's Orlinda Menendez set a new world record in the women's javelin Sunday with a throw of 71.54 meters in the one-day Vardinoyannis athletics meet held on the Greek island of Crete.

Menendez bettered the mark of 69.48 meters held by Norway's Trine Solberg-Hallestad since July 28, 2000. Solberg-Hallestad is an Olympic and two-time world champion. The record was set during the meet in the port city of Rethymnon, an annual event held in memory of Pavlos Vardinoyannis, a member of the Vardinoyannis shipping family.

HOW DO YOU GIVE EVEN BRAND-NEW CARS—
THE BRIGHTEST, LONGEST-LASTING SHINE EVER?
PLUS STRONGER PAINT PROTECTION!
(GOOD ON ALL CARS! EVEN IF "NOT-SO-BRAND-NEW" ANYMORE!)



Epson lady booters prevail

DAVAO CITY—Epson-Davao City smashed Ject Manpower-Davao B, 5-1, Sunday to handily retain the Rexona National Women's football crown at the packed Kapitan Torino Monteverde Sports Complex here. Top striker Leonor Satorre scored two goals to raise her tally to 11 markers as the Ink Jet booters capped their campaign in the Rexona-sponsored tournament organized by the Philippine Football Federation without dropping a single match.

NEGOTIATIONS**PSC offers help to BAP row****CHAMPAGNE SPLASH**

Ralf Schumacher (left) pours champagne on brother Michael after the latter won the French Grand Prix in Magny-Cours, central France, Sunday. Aside from spoiling Ralf's 26th birthday celebration, Michael, 32, also collected the kind of present most F1 drivers can only dream of—a tally of 50 race victories.

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission yesterday offered its help to end the leadership crisis besetting the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

In a press statement, PSC Chair Carlos Tuason said the PSC would spearhead the negotiations between feuding basketball personalities Quinteliano Literal and Gonzalo Puyat II.

He added that while there is a growing perception on government intervention on the PSC's offer, the PSC would still join hands with the POC in resolving the issue to save the country's sagging image in the international sports scene.

Puyat, who agreed to a harmonious meeting with Literal, earlier said he would only sit down on the bargaining table once Tuason excuses himself from the negotiations.

Tuason's presence, Puyat insisted, is tantamount to government intervention.

"I firmly believe that this problem must be solved by basketball people only," said Puyat, who requested Mobilene team owner Manny Pangilinan to act as arbiter in the proposed conciliatory meeting.

The meeting was supposed to be held yesterday but Literal was reportedly out of town.

Tuason: PSC gesture made for the interest of the country

HIS EFFORTS at trying to help solve the conflict in the Basketball Association of the Philippines misinterpreted as government intervention, Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason said yesterday that the offer was made "for the good and interest of the country."

"The PSC would like to broker peace discussions with the end view of helping both parties come to an agreement," said Tuason. "This offer, we believe, is purely for the good and interest of the country whose image in the foreign scene continues to suffer even without this conflict."

Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat, who is locked in a bitter fight for the BAP presidency with Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal, has opposed the role of Tuason as a possible mediator to the squabble.

At the same time, Tuason stressed the crucial role of the PSC outside financial matters related to the training of the country's national athletes and

Meanwhile, the Philippine Olympic Committee set no conditions on the conciliatory move between Puyat and Literal to fast-track the lifting of the Fibra suspension.

"There are no preconditions. As long as they sign an accord with my signature it will be enough to lift the suspension," Dayrit told the INQUIRER.

He added: "The POC is ready to accept any arrangement that may be mutually agreed upon by the two groups."

Dayrit was referring to the first of two options being offered by the Fibra for the BAP to regain its membership from the world governing body in the sport.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of Dayrit affixed and then forward the statement to the Switzerland-based basketball body.

"With the SEA Games fast approaching, they (Puyat and Literal) should act on it immediately," said Dayrit. "What is important now is for the two contending parties to agree to an arrangement that will pave the way for our basketball athletes to compete in the SEA Games."

Dayrit noted the suspension should be lifted before the final submission of entry forms on July 15 for the country to defend its crown in the biennial sportsfest set in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 8-17.

The Fibra instructed that conflicting parties (Literal and Puyat) should sign a conciliatory letter with the signature of

QC jail warden relieved over suspect's escape

INTERIOR Secretary Jose Lina yesterday ordered the relief of the Quezon City jail warden and two subordinates after the alleged mastermind in the kidnapping and killing of the son of the late Quezon City Judge Mariano Bacalla escaped Friday afternoon.

Lina also ordered the filing of criminal and administrative charges against jail warden Chief Insp. Alberto Santos and jail guards JOI's Luisito Torres and Roderick Sibuna following the escape of suspect Onofre Surat.

The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) replaced Santos with Supt. Primitivo Benitez as Quezon City jail chief.

Surat escaped from the custody of Torres and Sibuna on Friday afternoon at the East Avenue Medical Center, where he was supposed to undergo some medical tests.

The suspect allegedly complained of severe chest pains on Friday afternoon. Chief Insp. Nilo Ramos, jail medical officer, recommended that Surat be taken to the EAMC.

Santos apparently approved the suspect's transfer to the hospital for fear that he might die in jail. Surat was taken to the EAMC around 3 p.m. Friday.

Lina said Quezon City jail officials should not have allowed Surat to leave the jail without a court order.

Surat escaped while he was about to have an X-ray. Surat was arrested for his alleged role in the kidnap-slaying of Mag Bacalla on May 2.

The Bacalla family paid ransom money to the suspects who, however, still killed the young Bacalla.

The police rescue operations for Bacalla also led to the killing by mistake of New World Hotel chief steward Fernando Lozada and his daughter's friend, Marian Usan.

Lozada and Usan were killed after police officers fired at their car on May 17 on Araneta Avenue. The officers mistook Lozada's car for the escape vehicle of the kidnapping suspects.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoff said he has ordered the bureau's National Capital Region Office, headed by lawyer Edmund Arugay, to track down Surat.

Philip C. Tibeza, Jerome Aning

Man kills own brother

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A MAN on Sunday killed his older brother, said to be a drug addict, for hurting the former's 2-year-old daughter and 58-year-old father in Malabon City, police said.

Police said Glenie Retix Jr., 21, stabbed to death his brother Ferdinand, 26, in their house on Pilapit Street in Sitio 6, Buntang Catmon at about 8 p.m. Sunday.

Glenie was enraged when his brother Ferdinand, said to be high on drugs, came home and began berating members of his family, said investigator PO2 Redencion Muntala.

Ferdinand slapped Glenie's daughter and threatened to kill their father, Glenie Sr., with a wooden club, Muntala said.

Glenie tried to restrain his brother but the latter only became more violent and challenged him to a fight, he investigator said. Glenie then chased his brother and stabbed him in the chest and arm.

The suspect remains at large.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 3, 2001
St. Thomas, Apostle

Eph 2:19-22
Jn 20:24-29

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Thomas, the Twin, one of the Two, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he replied, "Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were once again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Resist no longer and believe me."

Thomas then said, "You are my Lord and my God." Jesus replied, "You believe because you see me, don't you? Happy are those who have not seen and have believed."

Commentary

John describes in his gospel the love story of God with his people that is to culminate in the wedding of God and people at the fullness of time. This marriage actually took place when Jesus demonstrated his love for the people to the very end on the cross, and was ratified by the resurrection. The signs of this ultimate love are the wounds in the side and in the hands and feet of the risen Lord, Thomas, the beloved disciple, had the privilege of verifying these signs. Once he saw the signs, he exclaimed: My Lord and my God! In other words: It is true! God had married his people! Since this realization is based on faith, Jesus blesses the people who rely on faith rather than on seeing.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the love of Jesus up to the very end. We ask you, grant that we may love one another just as he loved us.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayum St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel. 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@geni.net; Website: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://misericordia.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Attitude of Judge towards litigants—Respondent judge need to be reminded that government service is people-oriented. Patience is an essential part of dispensing justice and courtesy is a mark of culture and good breeding. Belligerent behavior has no place in government service where personnel are enjoined to act with self-restraint and civility at all times even when confronted with rudeness and insolence. [Reference: Rule 3.04 of the Code of Judicial Conduct] [Citations omitted.] Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, *Cafus v. Castillo*, G.R. No. 139844, December 15, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

'Poor' want OIC Malonzo out

'Asistios paying protesters'

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

HUNDREDS of poor residents of Caloocan City yesterday staged a rally in front of the city hall to pressure President Macapagal-Arroyo into revoking Mayor Reynaldo Milonzo's appointment on Saturday as OIC mayor of the city.

Calling Malonzo an "enemy of the poor," the protesters, led by the 1,500-strong Puwersa ng Walang Wala, said they would organize a massive protest action similar to the so-called Edsa 3 to force Ms Macapagal to reconsider Malonzo's appointment. They also vowed to stay in front of the city hall until Malacanang appoints a new set of OICs.

Malonzo said he was only giving the protesters a chance to cool off and for their emotion to subside.

"Then, we would ask them to leave, especially if they are getting in the way (of official business)," Malonzo said.

He also described the protesters as paid lackeys of his rivals, brothers Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr. and Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio. He said the protesters are receiving P200 a day from the Asistios.

"They (the Asistios) should accept their defeat. They should know that those appointed OICs have the people's mandate," Malonzo said.

The Commission on Elections has suspended the proclamation of winning candidates pending its decision on a petition for an election failure filed

by the Asistios.

Yolanda Crisostomo, spokesperson of PnwW, claimed that the letter appointing Malonzo and other "winning" candidates as OICs could have been faked. She said the letter only had the initials of Ms Macapagal and not her signature.

"We appeal to the President to appoint a new OIC, anybody but Malonzo and his partymates," Crisostomo said.

"The people of Caloocan know very well that Malonzo has made their lives more miserable so he doesn't deserve to be mayor all over again."

She challenged Malonzo to stand in front of the protesters and tell them that he deserves to be the OIC.

Protesters denounced the mayor for his alleged "sins" to the poor.

As early as 8 a.m. yesterday, protesters camped out at the plaza in front of the city hall and staged a program calling for Malonzo's replacement.

Then they marched on the streets urging other poor residents to join their cause.

Some of the protesters accused the media of being biased in favor of Malonzo.

Malcaatiang has been silent since Malonzo's controversial oath-taking last Saturday.

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. administered the oath to Malonzo, Vice Mayor Luis Varela and the city's councilors, which included street activist Nathanael Santiago.



ANTI-MALONZO demonstrators at the Caloocan City Hall, according to Malonzo, should learn to accept defeat.

VAL KANDUMON

Was Lacson capable of crime?

reporter who covered Lacson when he was a first lieutenant at the dreaded Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) in the late 1970s, he would say, "yes, he's capable of the crimes imputed to him."

That reporter is yours truly.

I covered the MISG for the Times Journal and then the Manila Bulletin from 1977 up to the 1980s. When I was first assigned to the MISG, the most dreaded military unit at the time, Lacson was still a first lieutenant. He was directly under then Capt. Reynaldo Berroya, head of the MISG's police intelligence branch. Both Lacson and Berroya were subordinates of then Lt. Col. Rolando Abadilla, the MISG chief.

I saw Lacson's fast promotion from first lieutenant to lieutenant colonel in a span of a few years. A member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971, he was the youngest lieutenant colonel in his time. He "few" from captain to lieutenant colonel. Would you believe he only carried the rank of major—which is between captain and lieutenant colonel—for only a few days?

If you asked a former police

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'm ashamed to say it now but when I was covering the MISG, I knew that most of the killings of criminals slain by Lacson's men did not take place in shootouts. Rather, they were shot dead while in captivity.

Then, I rationalized that the executions of those criminals meant that they could no longer do harm to innocent citizens. That's the reason I always wrote that the dead criminals were killed in shootouts as the MISG filed in its after-mission reports.

The following is an example:

The Bank of P.I. branch in Cubao, Quezon City was held up by several armed men in 1978 (if memory serves). To cut the story short, the captured robbers who were not killed at the bank after they surrendered were taken to the

MISG headquarters in Camp Crame.

I was gathering data on the number of robbers who were killed and captured at the Metrocom Investigation Unit (MIU), headed by then Maj. Leandro Mendoza, when there was a call for me.

"Mon, what's your number of suspects killed in the shootout with MISG operatives?" asked the voice at the other end of the line. It was Lacson who was calling from his office at the MISG which was directly behind the MIU building.

"If I'm not mistaken I said I had four dead suspects, citing records from that MIU. Lacson said, "Make it five."

And then a shot rang out. It came from the MISG headquarters.

Lacson gave me the name of the fifth slain bank robbery suspect.

In the military, they say that a good leader is also a good follower. Lacson was an excellent subordinate. He followed orders from his superiors without question.

Lacson's superior at the MISG, the military unit that molded him, was Colonel Abadilla. Abadilla was notorious for his ruthlessness to

ward criminals and allegedly even toward innocent citizens who crossed him.

Since Lacson was a good subordinate he naturally chose people who followed his orders blindly when he was chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

Looking back to the time Lacson, as PNP chief, was very sparing in issuing permits for citizens to carry firearms outside of their residences. I can guess the reason why he did that.

Lacson didn't want law-abiding citizens to carry guns because he didn't want to give them the wherewithal to fight criminals.

And from what we're now hearing about the PAOCTF, the criminals were Lacson's men.

He didn't want law-abiding citizens to shoot back when criminal PAOCTF agents shot at them.

Look what happened to Dacer. If Dacer had a gun and knew how to use it, those PAOCTF agents who abducted him would have had second thoughts.

Sta. Cruz church robbed of antique

4 bombs caused Parañaque fire

BY ALCUIN FAPA

FOUR homemade bombs were said to have set off the fire that hit Parañaque City Hall on Thursday, police said yesterday.

Based on an initial report sent to Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez, the bombs were homemade but very sophisticated.

Police said the bombing might have something to do with Marquez's controversial win in the last elections.

Supporters of losing candidate Pablo Olivares had been picketing city hall grounds to protest the victory of Marquez, whom they accused of widespread cheating.

The report did not specify if the bombing was part of a "destabilization" plot against the local administration or an "assassination"

attempt on Marquez.

The four bombs, police said, were planted in the Urban Poor Affairs Office behind a bathroom near the conference room.

The resulting fire destroyed the UPAO and adjoining offices of the city councilors and the Commission on Audit. Total damage was estimated at P15 mil. on.

Marquez yesterday accused his opponents of hiring bombers to carry out the attacks. He has ordered the city's chief legal officer and Parañaque police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles to conduct a joint investigation of the bomb attack on city hall and gave them until Monday to submit their report.

The city hall blaze started at 6 p.m. on the second floor of the building.

Atienza unhappy over anti-rob drive

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday expressed displeasure over the acting Western Police District director's performance in the anti-robbery campaign.

"You cannot just wait for victims to report a crime before you act," Atienza told Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinor Jr., the acting WPD chief. "You have to take a proactive stance and go after these criminal groups. Prevention is the key."

The mayor expressed particular concern over the cases of car thefts and holdups, particularly in the city's Malate, Ermita and Quiapo districts, that took place during the weekend.

Saturday afternoon, overseas contract worker Gamur Tamar, 37,

lost P20,000 cash to four armed men who held him up on P. Casal Street in San Miguel, Quiapo.

Sunday morning, two employees of the Philam Life insurance firm were robbed of P19,000 at the corner of United Nations and Taft avenues.

Friday evening, journalist-lawyer Reden Vialje of the Manila Bulletin was victimized by a "bukar-kotze" gang in front of the Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Malate.

Vialje said his Land Rover, which he parked in front of the hotel, was forcibly opened. He said he lost, among others, a leather valise, car stereo and other personal items.

Earlier in the morning, a female member of the hotel's gymnasium was held up at knife-point. Two

cases of jeepney robbery in Ermita were reported on Saturday.

Atienza called the string of robberies "unacceptable" and said City Hall's program to revive Manila "would be severely affected by incidents like these because it is predicated on the assurance that citizens can walk (on) our streets anytime without fear of being victimized by criminal elements."

He told Pasinor to deploy more police teams, especially in "high-risk" areas, to augment the regular police mobile and foot patrols.

"I want substantial results, the sooner the better," Atienza told the police colonel. "We have to maintain at all costs the high degree of public confidence in our police force that we have been trying to develop over the past few years."

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

CITY BACOOR	CITY NORTH EDSA
BUHAY KAMAO	
PEARL HARBOR	
ACCIDENTAL SPY	LUV TEXT
TOMB RAIDER	
MILA	
LUV TEXT	
EVOLUTION	TOMB RAIDER
CENTERPOINT	D.R. T & THE WOMEN
MILA	
HEAD OVER HEELS	
TOMB RAIDER	LUV TEXT
	SOUTHMALL
BUHAY KAMAO	APOL SA KARAGATAN
EVOLUTION	PEARL HARBOR
PEARL HARBOR	TOMB RAIDER
ACCIDENTAL SPY	EVOLUTION
MILA	UMANG TIBOK
CITY FAIRVIEW	TOMB RAIDER
BUHAY KAMAO	ACCIDENTAL SPY
UNANG TIBOK	LUV TEXT
ACCIDENTAL SPY	
TOMB RAIDER	MILA
LUV TEXT	
TOMB RAIDER	TOMB RAIDER
	GLADALLEY COMPLEX
MILA	
TOMB RAIDER	KASIGULAN
MILA	
EVOLUTION	
PEARL HARBOR	CEBU
D.R. T & THE WOMEN	TOMB RAIDER
APOL SA KARAGATAN	THE REPLICANT
CITY MANILA	PEARL HARBOR
PEARL HARBOR	MAGENTA
ACCIDENTAL SPY	BUHAY KAMAO
EVOLUTION	MILA
HEAD OVER HEELS	TOMB RAIDER
TOMB RAIDER	LUV TEXT
GET OVER IT	CLOSED
ANTS IN THE PANTS	
MILA	PEARL HARBOR
LUV TEXT	BUHAY KAMAO
TOMB RAIDER	MILA
	ILIGO
TOMB RAIDER	LUV TEXT
CLOSED	
PEARL HARBOR	PEARL HARBOR
EVOLUTION	EVOLUTION
HEAD OVER HEELS	
TOMB RAIDER	
GET OVER IT	
ANTS IN THE PANTS	
MILA	PEARL HARBOR
LUV TEXT	BUHAY KAMAO
TOMB RAIDER	MILA
	VEGACALL
TOMB RAIDER	
HEAD OVER HEELS	
MILA	TOMB RAIDER
EVOLUTION	
PEARL HARBOR	
D.R. T & THE WOMEN	
THE REPLICANT	
MILA	
ACCIDENTAL SPY	
	PAMPANGA
TOMB RAIDER	
HEAD OVER HEELS	
MILA	TOMB RAIDER
EVOLUTION	
PEARL HARBOR	
MILA	
HEAD OVER HEELS	
TOMB RAIDER	
	SUCAT
ACCIDENTAL SPY	
MILA	
TOMB RAIDER	
EVOLUTION	
	TUTUBAN
EVOLUTION	
MILA	
ACCIDENTAL SPY	
	DAYAO
SOON TO OPEN	

dt's DIGITAL
DOLBY

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729-7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

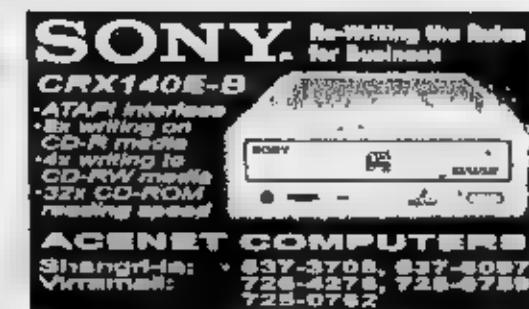
GLORIETTA 1		GLORIETTA 4		GREENBELT					
1	MILA	1	EVOLUTION	5	PEARL HARBOR	1	MILA	1	TOMB RAIDER
2	TOMB RAIDER	2	TOMB RAIDER	6	TOMB RAIDER	2	TOMB RAIDER	2	EVOLUTION
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY	3	TOMB RAIDER	7	ACCIDENTAL SPY	3	EVOLUTION	3	TOMB RAIDER
4	APOL SA KARAGATAN	4	HEAD OVER HEELS	8	EVOLUTION	4	PEARL HARBOR	4	PEARL HARBOR
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY	5	EVOLUTION	9	MARTIN NEVERA LIVE	5	MILA	5	MILA
6	TOMB RAIDER	6	EVOLUTION	10	June 29 & 30 9PM Onstage	6	EVOLUTION	6	EVOLUTION
7	MILA	7	EVOLUTION	11		7	EVOLUTION	7	EVOLUTION
8	LUV TEXT	8	EVOLUTION	12		8	EVOLUTION	8	EVOLUTION
9	EVOLUTION	9	EVOLUTION	13		9	EVOLUTION	9	EVOLUTION
10		10		14		15		16	

M M T A
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmia@asia.com

Filinvest	GOTESCO CINEMA	Cinema 2000	BACOLOD
FESTIVAL CINEMA	City (Manila) tel 734-1500	Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laiap) tel (049) 534-2185 / 534-2196	THE REPLICANT
(Binangonan) tel 850-3571 or 72	RESERVE RESERVE	TOMB RAIDER	HEAD OVER HEELS
1 pm	EVOLUTION	EVOLUTION	BUHAY KAMAO
2 pm	MILA	MILA	PEARL HARBOR
3 pm	ACCIDENTAL SPY	ACCIDENTAL SPY	POSSESSED
4 pm	EVOLUTION	EVOLUTION	KAMASUTRA
5 pm	TOMB RAIDER	TOMB RAIDER	
6 pm	PEARL HARBOR	PEARL HARBOR	
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
8 pm			
9 pm			
10 pm			
11 pm			
12 pm			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCLO, Editor ■ CORINNE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor



Peso hits 5-month low at 52.70 to \$1

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

A DEARTH of positive news coupled with a slow dollar inflow and aggressive buying yesterday pushed the peso down by more than 30 centavos to a five-month low of 52.70 to \$1.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas still refused to intervene and sell dollars in the market even as it stressed that transactions were being observed for any sign of speculation.

"We are monitoring to see if there was any speculation. So far, we think the weakness was due to quarter-end demand and also the Abu Sayyaf and the kidnappings," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said

a maturing obligation of an oil company was instrumental in pushing demand up and forced some firms to buy foreign exchange at a high of P52.73 to \$1.

Tetangco said the market was anticipating the entry of \$500 million to \$600 million from a telecommunications company. Market sources believed it could be the proceeds of a planned bond float of PLDT.

The peso opened at 52.50 to \$1, already weaker than last Friday's level of 52.395. Traders said the peso may lose 10 to 20 centavos in the coming days.

Deputy National Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola also blamed the peso's weakness yesterday for the lackluster auction of treasury bills. He said banks appeared to be shifting part of their liquidity

to the foreign exchange market rather than using these funds to buy government securities.

As a result, bids for longer-term instruments were lower than what the Treasury normally offers.

Buenaventura said the slight uptick in the 91-day treasury bill yields was expected after the BSP had kept overnight rates steady last Thursday.

The benchmark rate went up by 4.2 basis points to 8.77 percent while the six-month and one-year instruments rose by 16.2 basis points and 12.9 points to 9.942 percent and 11.221 percent.

"The rates of longer tenor instruments went up because of fears that the government's deficit may go up," the BSP chief said.

Had the Treasury accepted all

bids for the six-month and one-year debt papers, the 182-day treasury bill rate would have gone up by 40 basis points to 10.5 percent and the 364-day by 27 basis points to 11.625 percent.

The central bank governor said he had abandoned his optimistic stance on the peso and said "rates will be sticky for a while."

Buenaventura said the central bank was prepared to intervene in the market when necessary. "We had said we could come in at any time so the market had been waiting for it. But so far, we haven't intervened."

He said that while the recent peso weakness had slowed down dollar remittance from exports and overseas contract workers, there had been no signs of capital flight.

HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Shares end down

STOCKS extended their decline for the eighth straight session on Monday, as the falling peso and gloomy economic prospects triggered selling by foreign investors.

"What's the incentive to buy into the market? The Philippines continued to be plagued by economic and political problems," said A&A Securities research head Astrolito de Casillo.

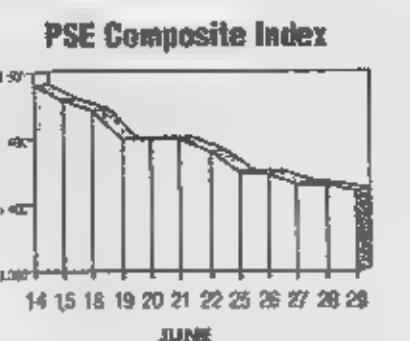
"If you look at it, there's no positive news to perk up the market. There's a sudden barrage of negative developments," said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities.

"The weaker peso, the pressure on interest rates and the hostage crisis all had their expected impact on the market," added Roberto Cano of BPT Securities Corp.

The Philippine main index closed down 14.25 points, or 1.01 percent, at 1,395.79 points. The Philippine stock market now ranks as the seventh worst performing market in the region.

Dwindlers outclassed gainers 34 to 20 and there were 47 stocks unchanged on volume of P543.11 million.

(See stock market report on Page B6)



Gov't urged to resolve 'old' issues

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

BUSINESSMEN yesterday urged the fledgling Macapagal administration to give priority to resolving old issues—mainly lack of credit, rising costs, unabated smuggling, inefficient bureaucracy, and worsening internal security problem—that hounded the previous government.

They claimed that solving these problems had become more compelling with the sub-par performance of the industry sector due to a slowdown in the country's top export markets (United States and

GOVT/B2



RP readies \$500-M bond flotation

FOREIGN investment banks have convinced the Macapagal administration to consider issuing at least \$500 million in global bonds during a roadshow either late this month or in September.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said favorable foreign market

conditions were making the national government re-think its earlier stance of pursuing a strictly no-deal roadshow in July or September.

Camacho said recent developments might convince the administration to shift to a deal roadshow even if the government has completed its foreign financing requirements following a series of private placements that would reach about \$550 million by the end of this month.

The option was to reduce the volume of domestic borrowings and load part of the needs on the offshore fund-raising exercise, Camacho said part of the financing requirements for next year might be front-loaded as well.

"Banks helping us on the roadshow are telling us we could get attractive rates because of a lack of emerging market issues as well as a generally positive feeling toward the Philippines," the finance chief said.

Part of the lure, Camacho added, was the probability that the government could issue a longer tenor borrowing, possibly maturing in 10 years, with a reasonable pricing.

He said an eight- to 10-year bond carries a spread of about five percentage points over the six-month London interbank offered rate or Libor.

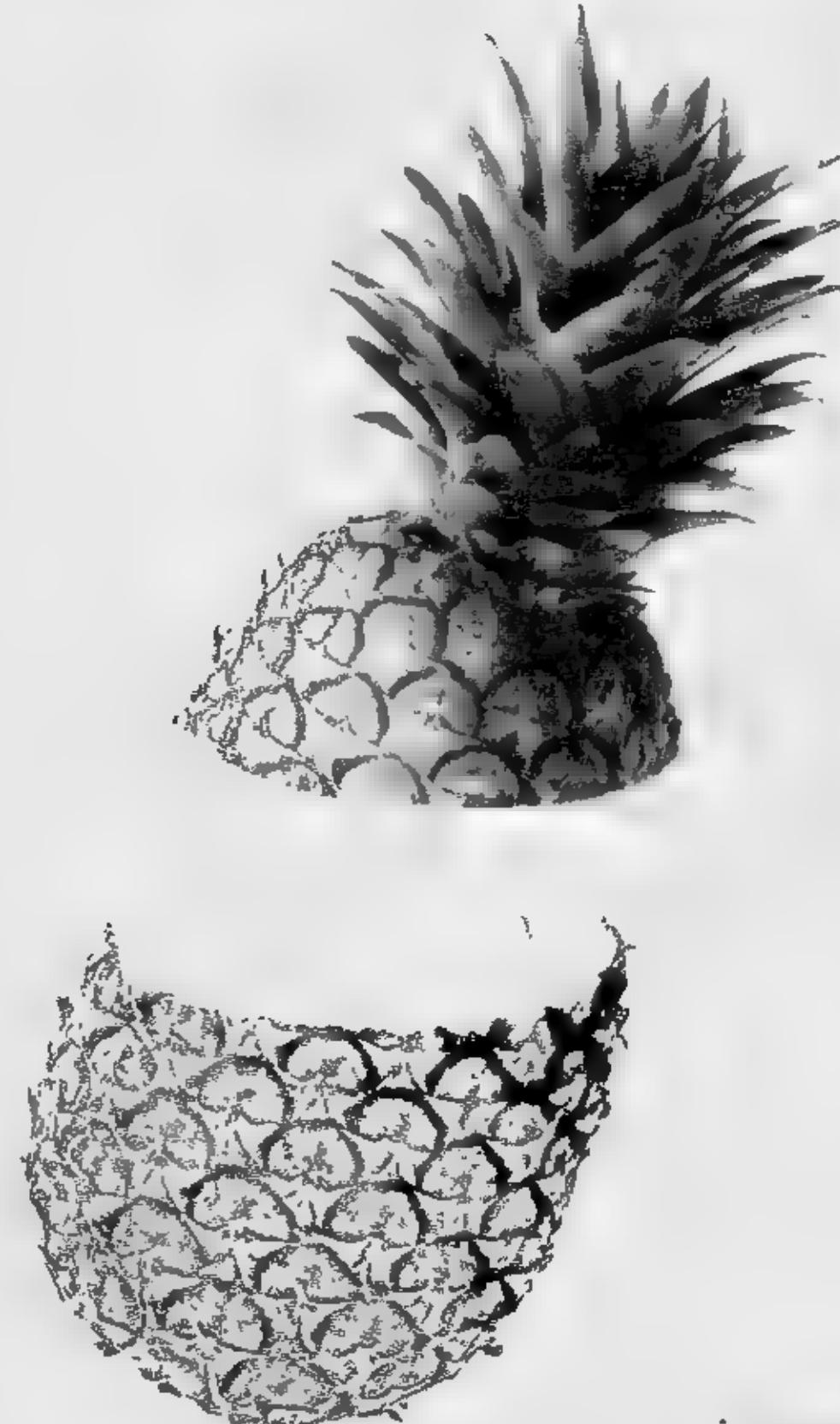
"A bond issue must have an economic size and \$500 million is a good size. If we do it, the tenor must be at least 10 years and it should be a global bond," the finance chief said.

He said a longer tenor was important especially at a time when the country's maturity profile was starting to bunch up. The recent borrowings of the national government and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas were to mature in three to five years.

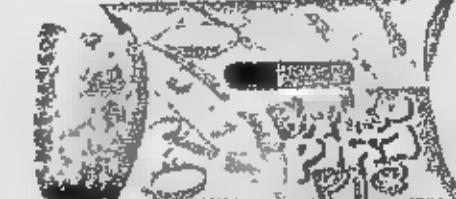
"It is a good thing to start looking at longer term maturities. Also, if we convert domestic borrowings to foreign, we would not crowd out the private sector," Camacho said.

The roadshow is being arranged by seven foreign investment banks led by Morgan Stanley

RP/B2



A perfectly sweet combination - new Buco Piña Pie! pocket-sized dessert pie mula sa Jollibee! P14 lang or just add P10 with any Value Meal!



Jollibee.

Start the bull ruling

BREAKTIME

**Conrado R.
Banat III**



THIS cute administration of Gloria Estefan just hit pay dirt. Times are hard as they are, but on top of it, at least based on word going around business, a third force now also wishes Gloria Estefan ill. They are the so-called Edsa Puwers. You know - "echapewer!"

As you know, unless you spent the whole of last week cleaning your nose, the Palace is busy promoting this old refreshed line about destabilization. This allegedly features very influential people with very sick minds.

They supposedly come from the opposition. Nowadays, another way of saying "opposition" is, well, all those stupid plotters actually follow orders coming from a government hospital with a golf course.

And that means none other than the man named Band ... Wrist Band. Let's say all that is true. So what do the plotters hope to gain? Sleepovers with Wrist Band in the hospital and free enemies in the morning?

It is said they actually want to take over power from Gloria Estefan. At this time? I don't think so. Those who think that lightning can strike twice, must really be very optimistic. This, or they have damaged brains which were fixed with ducting tape.

IN business, nevertheless, they are saying that Gloria Estefan should only expect the opposition to do a lot of opposing. What else can they do? By definition, members of the opposition have nothing better to do. That's why they are involved in politics.

In reality, the concern of this cute administration must have something to do with 2004. That's only three years away! Everybody is preparing. Just ask those Forbes Park groups endorsing, openly, Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Loren Legarda.

Among them are the so-called Edsa Puwers. They were the same forces which helped Gloria Estefan gain power. The only problem is, well, they didn't get some of it for themselves. And so they have to try again and have their candidate win in 2004.

Of course, for their candidate to have a chance against an "incumbent," Gloria Estefan must become the very model of incompetence, failure and bad temper. This is the kind of destabilization which worries business. Nobody may help her administration anymore.

As for the opposition, they can only be expected to pounce on Gloria Estefan, personally, and the failure of this cute administration to perk up the economy pronto. It's the role of the opposition. Otherwise, they can just go sell recycled condom.

MAYBE you also heard what happened to former House Speaker and soon-to-be House Speaker again Jose de Venecia. It seems the poor man got a number of calls from some bigtime businessmen, asking whether he got the money. What money?

In anything which has even just a tiny trace of the word "congressman," you need money. Quick, think of "pork," what word comes to mind? That's what I mean.

So when Yoda Venecia decided to seek the speakership again, for a rare record of three terms, it seems somebody went around corporate offices to get contributions for and in behalf of Yoda. The money never reached the poor man.

Despite his suffering such a special kind of daytime robbery, Yoda has the numbers to win the speakership. Well, even hopefully! So confident is his group about their getting the position, they even prepared an economic plan. Written *pa naga!*

Typically Yoda, the plan even uses the usual catch word. It's called "747." It targets 7 percent growth for seven years. Why the number "77"? The plan says we need to grow that much long to eradicate poverty. Yeah? Not for luck?

AT least Yoda has a plan, fantastic as it may sound.

We can't say the same thing for somebody. Sure, it looks like an ambitious plan, given that we are growing at a dizzying rate for a small that just had a vertigo attack.

And Yoda's 747 talks of a strategy. It will not wait for these bad times to turn worse. In other words, it wants the government itself to invest to start the economic ball rolling.

Thus the plan offers a way out of this vicious cycle of a sluggish economy which discourages investments which, in turn, leads to an even more sluggish economy which can only discourage investments all the more.

The plan notes that the government has more than \$10 billion in unused cheap credit lines abroad, the so-called ODA, or official development assistance. They are almost the pay-when-able type of loans. And we don't use them!

The problem is, according to the 747, the government could not provide the counterpart funding for these loans. Why? Because the funding became low priority in the budget. Yoda's 747 promises to change that. Let's see.

SO the big three oil companies are at it again. One of them just raised pump prices of fuel. Before you know it, by a weird twist of fate, the two others are doing the same thing. Of course not a single word was said about it between them. It's an accident of timing.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

For some places like Cavite, a ban of four-kilometer radius means it's no longer viable for the new players to go into business there. It means you have to put up a station so far into the outskirts of town, you have to take a flight to go to the toilet.

Such a bull now rules the much lauded oil deregulation. And it's just one beauty of the program. Another beauty is, well, it allows the big three to make it hard for the new comers to put up gas stations to compete against theirs. Nice, no?

In Cavite, for instance, the new players are prevented — and by law, at that — to put up gas stations within a four-kilometer radius from an existing station. Guess what stations are existing. Hint: Big

DECEPTION

Philcencor stimulating import surge-PCA

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE Constructors Association Inc. has accused local cement manufacturers of stimulating a surge in cement imports from Indonesia to bolster their case against Taiwan Cement Corp.

PCA president Justo Manalo said the local cement industry engaged in a "cooperative strategic effort to contrive an import surge in cement" to force the government's hand in

slapping punitive tariff measures or import quotas to increase prices.

In a letter to Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. president Magdaleno Albaracin, Manalo said the massive cement imports from Indonesia came from factories controlled by parent companies of local cement players.

Manalo, however, did not name the culprits.

The "Big 4" cement players of the world—the Holderbank group

of Switzerland, Mexico's Cemex, Lafarge of France and UK firm Blue Circle—have controlled more than 80 percent of the local market through mergers and acquisitions over the last 3 years.

Last month, Philcencor reported that cement imports had doubled their market share from 10 percent last year to more than 20 percent this year due to alleged dumping of sale of cement below market price.

Philcencor noted that Indonesia

had emerged as a major source of cement imports by surpassing Taiwan's shipments last month.

Manalo said while the PCA took a "non-belligerent" position on the industry's recent across-the-board 30-percent increase in prices, it would take a "hard-line position" against Philcencor's move to impose anti-dumping duties on Taiwan cement under the Safeguard Measures Act.

The Department of Trade and

Industry is currently holding a preliminary investigation on Philcencor's allegation that Taiwan is dumping its excess capacity into the country, which has kept cement prices below production levels.

Manalo claimed that this deceptive move was meant to push prices of cement to more than P200 per bag from P134 per bag to enable the foreign cement companies to recover their acquisition costs in 1998.

He said local cement firms were selling cement at P134 per bag or \$67 per ton, which was substantially bigger than the worldwide average of \$16 to \$20 per ton cost of cement.

Manalo warned that if the DTI sided with Philcencor on the issue and impose a 40-percent duty on imported cement, cement prices would rise to P200 per bag, which "is imminent to the interest of Filipino consumers and the economy."

Former investment banker to head new energy agency

BY RONNIE W. DOMINGO

ENERGY Secretary Vince Perez announced yesterday the appointment of investment banker Edgardo del Fonso as president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm).

Before his appointment, Del Fonso was managing director of Bancommerce Investment Corp., president of Belle Jar Alu Corp. and chair of Systems Convergence.

The Harvard University graduate was also director of several corporations.

As head of Psalm, Del Fonso will manage the sale and privatization of National Power Corp.'s power generating assets, real estate and other disposable assets, as well as its contracts with independent power producers.

As mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, Psalm will also assume the state firm's outstanding financial obligations that arose from loans, bonds, securities and other forms of debts.

Before joining Bancommerce, Del Fonso also served as chief financial officer of Philippine Airlines and then of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

From 1986 to 1988, he was a finance

undersecretary who headed the technical committee on privatization.

Moreover, the Makati Business Club member held different positions in the Philippine National Oil Co.

In a related matter, Asiscio Gonzaga, Napocor executive vice president and chief operating officer, was appointed president of National Transmission Corp.

Gonzaga had been with Napocor since 1965 where he rose from the ranks starting as a cadet engineer at the Mt. Cristina Hydro Electric Plant.

Last week, Perez said Transco should be the first on the auction block before Napocor's generating assets.

"I think it will make the generation companies' sale attractive if the buyers know who will manage the Transco," he said.

For his part, Gonzaga said the government should chalk up at most \$2.7 billion from the sale of Transco.

He said this was a working target although "it will depend on the prospective buyers who would surely bargain."

He added that the government might either sell Transco outright or enter into a 25-year concession contract.

Transco has yet to be transferred to Psalm.

Metro Pacific sets plan to cut debts

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PROPERTY developer Metro Pacific Corp. is embarking on a comprehensive strategy to trim its P10.5-billion outstanding debts.

This developed as market analysts said restructuring debts would be the company's biggest challenge this year.

In a news briefing yesterday, Metro Pacific president Ricardo Pascua said a portion of the proceeds from the sale of its stake in the northern central business district of the Bonifacio Global City would be used to pay the

company's debts.

Pascua said Metro Pacific had hoped to bid out the property, consisting of 18.9 hectares of land, by September. The sale would allow Metro Pacific to free up more resources for the development of the rest of the global city.

"A lot of our debt is maturing in the next 12 months, so we're now talking to creditors and undertaking identification of assets," Pascua said.

"There are enough assets to be able to handle the debts. It's just that we have to restructure, sell assets and liquidify so that the debt

structure is matched by assets," he said.

Last week, Metro Pacific announced that its subsidiary, Bonifacio Land Corp., was selling its development rights in the northern central business district to sustain earlier developments in the Global City.

Under the strategy, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the joint venture between Bonifacio Land and state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority will inject the 18.9-hectare property into a new company to exchange for shares. Bonifacio Land

will then sell its 55-percent stake in the new company to a new investor.

Pascua said at least one big local property developer had expressed interest to bid for the stake.

The other groups that participated in the 1995

bidding for the Fort Bonifacio project were expected to take a look at the sale. These included the Ayala, Gokongwei and Sy groups, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Retirement Service and Benefits System.

shareXCHANGE

OVER 25 YEARS IN CONFINED CLUB SHARING EXPERIENCE! SEC. 100		Price	
Period/Use	10/02/2001 - 25/03/2001	Initial Price	Final Price
ALABANG "A"	—	1,980,000	1,100,000
CANARY BEACH	900,000	900,000	500,000
ATAYAT	400,000	400,000	200,000
MANAT SPORTS HYD	1,430,000	1,430,000	1,430,000
MANILA POLO	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
ORCHARD "B/C"	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000
STA. ELENA "A"	990,000	990,000	2,200,000
TAGAYTAY MEADOWS	870,000	870,000	870,000
WACK WACK GOLF	—	—	—

TRIN MIRAGE, MARINA, SMI, SANTIGE, LEGS, E-mail: sharexchange@sharexchange.com.ph Tel: 827-5223 / 826-3000 / 826-3070-71 / Fax: 826-3000

Gov't unlikely to meet growth targets, says Landbank prexy

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE HEAD of Land Bank of the Philippines said yesterday the government was unlikely to meet its growth targets this year.

Landbank president Margarito Teves, an economist and a former lawmaker, predicted a 2.6- to 3-percent growth in gross domestic product—the total final value of all goods and services produced in a nation's economy over a given period of time, usually a year, excluding foreign income—this year.

The GDP growth rate is a primary indicator of the state of a country's economy.

The Development Budget Coordinating Council expects GDP to grow by 3.3 to 3.8 percent this year, a level that economists and analysts believe to be "too optimistic."

"The government poses targets and this is what it wants to attain, while economists do forecasts and these are likely to happen," Teves, former head of Think Tank Inc., told reporters.

Teves said among the spoilers to the government's growth targets were higher oil prices,

a bigger unemployment figure and a huge fiscal deficit. These, he said, could prevent a sustained economic recovery.

He added that foreign investors remained wary of placing their money in the Philippines.

Teves said the Macapagal administration was struggling with domestic and external problems that were weighing down on the economy.

"(Former President Joseph) Estrada was even luckier because, even if there was a huge deficit, he had no external factors, like a US economic slowdown, to contend with," he said.

The Macapagal administration is also dealing with a huge budget deficit. It has been working on a tight budget to keep its deficit below P145 billion by year's end.

The tighter budget has prevented the government from pump-pricing the economy.

The new administration is also coping with an economic slowdown in the United States and Japan, the country's major trading partners.

The United States and Japan account for nearly half the Philippines' exports that, in turn, make up about 20 percent of GDP.

NTC to tighten rules vs oversubscription

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has decided to apply tougher measures to prevent telecommunication companies from taking in subscribers beyond their networks' capacity.

NTC chief Eliseo Rio said the commission was revising its benchmark for the "grade of service" that telecommunication companies should meet.

"Grade of service" is determined by the number of successful calls, or calls that actually make it through to the other party without getting dropped or getting a busy signal.

The benchmark is currently pegged at 7 percent for mobile phone companies and 5 percent for landline operators. This means that out of 100 calls made through a cellular phone, only seven should fail; for each 100 calls made through a landline, only five should fail.

Rio said the NTC would retain its

current landline benchmark, but would set a new benchmark of only 5 percent for cellular phone operators, especially with the rapid subscriber base growth mobile phone firms were enjoying.

The telecommunications companies have agreed on this already. We'll have one last meeting by mid-July to finalize things," Rio said.

As far as this grade of service was actually measured, Rio said the NTC was conducting quarterly checks of each telecommunications company.

"We have our own equipment for measuring this. We get the statistics on how many per one thousand calls give a busy signal."

The next inspection will be done as soon as the new benchmark is set.

Companies that do not meet the NTC's benchmark will be banned from selling additional SIM (subscriber identification module) packs or from getting more subscribers until they improve their grade of service.

"We have our own equipment for measuring this. We get the statistics on how many per one thousand calls give a busy signal."

The next inspection will be done as soon as the new benchmark is set.

Companies that do not meet the NTC's benchmark will be banned from selling additional SIM (subscriber identification module) packs or from getting more subscribers until they improve their grade of service.

The commission earlier approved the SCCP's request that all clearing members with net negative exposures amounting to P1 million or below be exempted from a required daily collateral collection under the mark-to-market collateral deposit system.

The exemption, however, was subject to the condition that the SCCP, through a one-time contribution by its members or by the PSE on behalf of its members, add to the Clearing and Trade Guarantee Fund P10 million for the sole purpose of covering the aggregate net negative exposures of members whose computed individual exposure were less than P1 million.

Under the proposed credit ring agreement, members of the PSE and its clearing arm, the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, will contribute pro-rata the amount of "net negative exposures" of failing brokers exceeding P10 million.

The SCCP has already submitted one version, but the SEC found possible loopholes in it.

The commission earlier approved the SCCP's request that all clearing members with net negative exposures amounting to P1 million or below be exempted from a required daily collateral collection under the mark-to-market collateral deposit system.

The exemption, however, was subject to the condition that the SCCP, through a one-time contribution by its members or by the PSE on behalf of its members, add to the Clearing and Trade Guarantee Fund P10 million for the sole purpose of covering the aggregate net negative exposures of members whose computed individual exposure were less than P1 million.

Under the proposed credit ring agreement, members of the PSE and its clearing arm, the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, will contribute pro-rata the amount of "net negative exposures" of failing brokers exceeding P10 million.

The SCCP has already submitted one version, but the SEC found possible loopholes in it.

The commission earlier approved the SCCP's request that all clearing members with net negative exposures amounting to P1 million or below be exempted from a required daily collateral collection under the mark-to-market collateral deposit system.

The exemption, however, was subject to the condition that the SCCP, through a one-time contribution by its members or by the PSE on behalf of its members, add to the Clearing and Trade Guarantee Fund P10 million for the sole purpose of covering the aggregate net negative exposures of members whose computed individual exposure were less than P1 million.

Under the proposed credit ring agreement, members of the PSE and its clearing arm, the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, will contribute pro-rata the amount of "net negative exposures" of failing brokers exceeding P10 million.

The SCCP has already submitted one version, but the SEC found possible loopholes in it.

The commission earlier approved the SCCP's request that all clearing members with net negative exposures amounting to P1 million or below be exempted from a required daily collateral collection under the mark-to-market collateral deposit system.

The exemption, however, was subject to the condition that the SCCP, through a one-time contribution by its members or by the PSE on behalf of its members, add to the Clearing and Trade Guarantee Fund P10 million for the sole purpose of covering the aggregate net negative exposures of members whose computed individual exposure were less than P1 million.

Under the proposed credit ring agreement, members of the PSE and its clearing arm, the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, will contribute pro-rata the amount of "net negative exposures" of failing brokers exceeding P10 million.

The SCCP has already submitted one version, but the SEC found possible loopholes in it.

The commission earlier approved the SCCP's request that all clearing members with net negative exposures amounting to P1 million or below be exempted from a required daily collateral collection under the mark-to-market collateral deposit system.

The exemption, however, was subject to the condition that the SCCP, through a one-time contribution by its members or by the PSE on behalf of its members, add to the Clearing and Trade Guarantee Fund P10 million for the sole purpose of covering the aggregate net negative exposures of members whose computed individual exposure were less than P1 million.

Under the proposed credit ring agreement, members of the PSE and its clearing arm, the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, will contribute pro-rata the amount of "net negative exposures" of failing brokers exceeding P10 million.

The SCCP has already submitted one version, but the SEC found possible loopholes in it.

REAL ESTATE

CEsar D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Old buildings need upgrading to rival new 'brainy' ones

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

INTELLIGENCE or beauty?

Sounds like a beauty pageant, but new buildings in the country seem to possess both. The emergence of technology-equipped buildings in urban centers has brought pressure on owners of 15-year-old and above buildings that have the brawns (probably the beauty as well), but not necessarily the brains. Suddenly, competition has become stiffer.

So, how does one cope with such building competition and the preference of tenants to dwell and do business in an "intelligent" building?

Demolishing old buildings to make way for new ones need not be

an option. For German firm Siemens Building Technologies, which is currently in the refurbishment of buildings in the Philippines, refurbishing an old building is far cheaper than putting up a new structure. During a press briefing, SBT stressed it sees a market in the country, which it estimated as having 80 percent of buildings that are not new. SBT president and CEO Borys Priadko said the Philippines has a market that is not yet "mature."

Among Priadko's suggestions to make old buildings competitive are to make these structures "economical" to be at par with world building standards. He added that these should be refurbished with environmental controls to utilize electricity more efficiently, and to provide them with better temperature control and air quality so these structures could become safer and

healthier to stay in for tenants.

Priadko hopes the Philippine economy would experience a turnaround, despite predictions of no upswings in the real estate and construction industry in the next 12 months. He said, however, that SBT still believes in the Philippine construction market's potential.

"There's a large majority of your buildings here that's not been upgraded. For this to become competitive in the next few years, they're all going to have to be upgraded. So we see the potential as there are more pressures for the buildings to upgrade," he said.

SBT's focus, apart from commercial establishments, includes airports, hotels, healthcare facilities, industrial structures, laboratories and clean rooms, shopping centers, sporting facilities, schools, pharmaceutical plants and data centers.

Among SBT's projects were the

Naia domestic terminal and the Pacific Star Building. Other projects were the Olympic Stadium Complex in Australia, the Palace of the Golden Horses in Malaysia, Singapore University, Hyatt Hotels and the Mass Transport Railway System of Taiwan.

SBT also decided to put its multiple business units under one roof—the Pilgrim Building in Makati—a not-so-new building, which by now is technology equipped. SBT's building automation division and services include solutions and lighting control as well as heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems—what is known as HVAC. It also handles access control, intrusion, video surveillance and danger management systems. Its fire safety systems also include fire detection, gas detection, extinguishing and evacuation.



CREEKSIDE FACELIFT

The Makati Creekside Mall recently got a facelift to give it a fresh look. The building, which turns 14 years old this month offers one of the most competitive rates in commercial space leases in the Makati business district. This 2,212-square-meter, five-story edifice houses establishments such as restaurants, entertainment outlets, and media production studios and accessible to all points in the metropolis. Located on Amorsolo Street, it has sufficient parking slots and offers valet services to tenants and customers.

9 urban poor housing sites listed for P49-M financing

NINE housing sites being purchased

by their respective community associations of informal dwellers have received a P49.1-million funding allocation from the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. last month under its community mortgage program (CMP) to assure their land tenure security on the said properties.

The housing sites have also been issued letters of guarantee cover by the NHMFC to assure landowner-sellers of the properties that the CMP loan proceeds will be released as payment for the housing sites upon compliance with the loan requirements, according to NHMFC president Angelico T. Salud.

The proposed sites for urban poor housing lined up for CMP financing were earlier accredited, evaluated and inspected prior to the approval last month of the letters of guarantee by the NHMFC board of directors, chaired by Secretary Michael T. Defensor, concurrent presidential housing adviser and

chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

Comprising a total of 1,353 family beneficiaries, the housing sites and their corresponding approved CMP loan values include Christian Homeowners Association (HOA) Inc., P300,300; Project 3, Barangay 26 Gingog City Urban Poor, P7.19-million; Kamonsil HOA Inc., P245,000; Tabing-Ilog Nangka HOA, P9.95-million.

J.M. Inc., P11.29-million; Samahang Pagkakaisa sa Abot-Kaya HOA Inc., P6.46-million; Bayanan HOA of Saunas Bacoor Inc., P4.58-million; Sama-samang Babilat sa Lupang Pangako Inc. (Robles Property), P140,000; and Victory Heights HOA Inc., Phase 1, P8.96-million.

The financing of the project sites is the contribution of the NHMFC to the overall housing initiatives of Defensor to fast-track the security of land and housing tenure for the informal settlers under the administration of President Macapagal.

BCI Asia online services promotes growth of construction industry

BUILDING and Construction Interchange (BCI) Asia's project leads can now be reached through its online construction reports at its website address www.bciasia.com.

According to BCI Asia's country manager JJ Fernandez, this advancement will greatly reinforce their ultimate goal of promoting the growth of the construction industry in the Philippines.

Through e-bulletin, BCI Asia will be more effective in providing construction project information to their clients which will include building products' suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, designers and consultants.

Said Fernandez: "This will create a level playing field among contractors. Contract bidding using the information from the BCI online service will surely result to higher quality projects, lower development cost. It is our intention to increase the probability of more projects getting off the ground."

In this website, project leads enable construction suppliers and contractors to introduce their product to key decision-makers early enough in the process to have the product specified. This will also enable them to have a constant flow of sales opportunities.

Aside from the future construction activities, e-bulletin provides information on project scope, estimated cost, construction timetable and key contact details that are vital for bidding a contract.

Meanwhile, architect Joseph Palafox of Line Art Design finds an easy access to suppliers of building materials and consultants subscribing. Palafox said that BCI Asia's online report is aggressive as far as trying to reach out to potential clients which will eventually open up lines of communication between users and sellers of building projects and systems.

BCI Asia, the market leader in

construction information started reporting in 1993. This was conceived in answer to the needs of contractors for value information, Fernandez said.

BCI Asia, a nominee for the Asian Innovation Awards by the Far Eastern Review in 1999, is servicing six major cities in the Asia Pacific that include Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Bangkok. BCI also has an office in Sydney, Australia.

Interested contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, designers and consultants may visit the website and avail of the online service.



FIGARO OPENS IN ORTIGAS BUSINESS DISTRICT

Commercial buildings now offer ground floor spaces to coffee shops and restaurants as an amenity for their tenants. The latest to open in the Ortigas Business District is Figaro Coffee Co. Open from 7 a.m. to midnight, Figaro caters to the businessmen and residents in the area of Emerald Avenue.

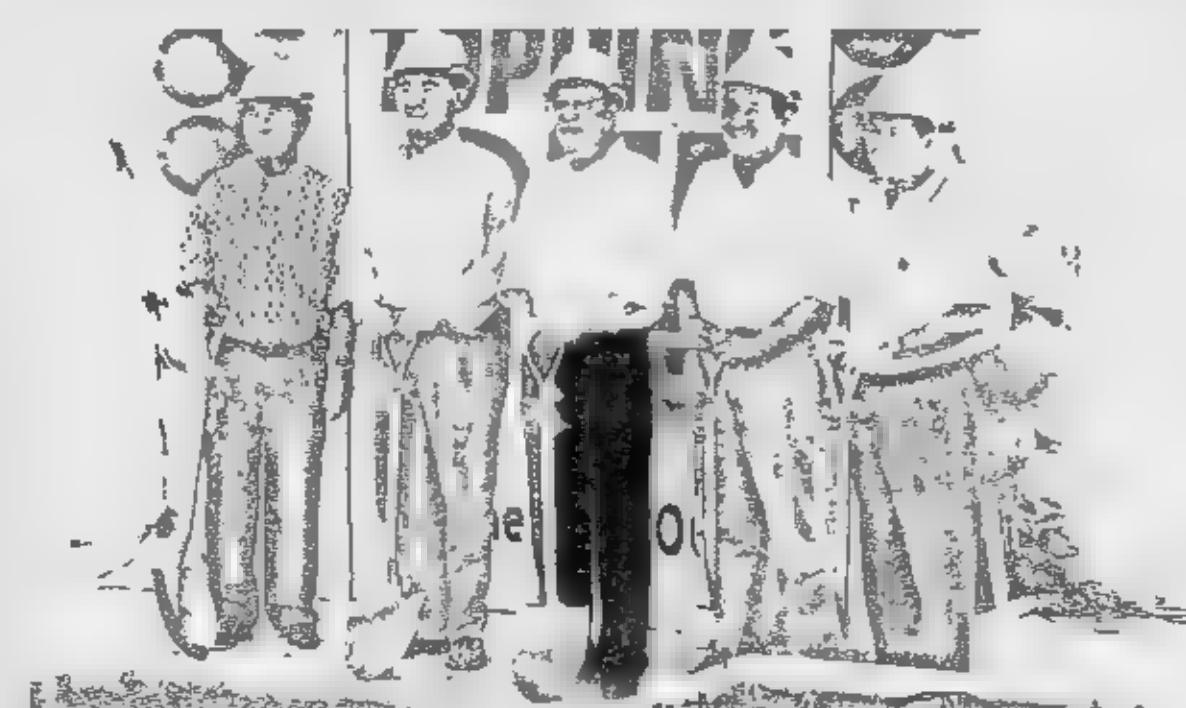
New 40-story condo rises in Legazpi Village

MORE than 30,000 square meters of premium high-rise space will soon be available on Rada Street in Legazpi Village, a short walking distance from Greenbelt Mall overlooking Legazpi Park, as the launch of a 40-story condominium project draws near.

This new Ayala Land venture consists mostly of studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units, and some three-bedroom units. Commercial units will be put on the ground floor.

All 370 units will be designed based on Ayala Land's highest standards of quality and property management. These units are ideal for both investors and end-users.

Amenities and facilities include a swimming pool, a social hall, landscaped areas with water features, an air-conditioned lobby, space for day care, play area and a gym. Four elevators will service the residents.



TOPPING OFF CEREMONIES

Robinsons Land Corp., one of the country's largest and most dynamic real estate firms today, recently held the topping off rites of its 3rd mall in the Visayas, the Robinsons Place Iloilo. With the mall structurally complete, Robinsons Place Iloilo is targeted to open by the last quarter of this year. It will be a 3-level shopping mall with over 200 shops, dining outlets, entertainment facilities and service centers. From left are engineer Dennis Abcede, construction manager, DA Abcede and Associates; Frederick D. Go, RLC senior vice president; engineer Joe San Buenaventura, engineering division manager, World Engineering; architect Nicky G. Villanueva, RLC vice president for corporate property planning; and architect William V. Coscoluelas, principal architect, WVCA.



ANOTHER HOUSING SITE

Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi (right) shares light moments with project engineer Joseph Dominio, a housing site coordinator, during an ocular inspection of the new housing project of the city government located at the Soldier's Hills, Barangay Putatan. The project, which is in coordination with the National Housing Authority, is one of the many low-cost housing projects of the administration to address the problems of the poor on houses.

Filinvest introduces new model of Casa Cielo home series in Antipolo City

REAL estate developer Filinvest Land Inc. recently unveiled Diana, its latest Casa Cielo housing series in its rapidly developing township project of Filinvest East County in Antipolo City.

In simple rites held recently at the Mission Hills community of Filinvest East County, company officers present for the groundbreaking were FLI president Joseph M. Yap, consultant Rolbie T. Manalo, FLI vice chair Andrew Gotianan Jr. and engineer Winnie Lim.

Blending indoor and outdoor living within its 298-square-meter usable floor plan, Diana's bigger floor area offers more value at less cost. This also allows the home owner the choice for vertical expansion, adding more options to create more bedrooms or to have a viewing deck, depending on one's lifestyle needs. Whether as a bungalow or a two-story home, Diana gives you value for your money and flexibility, making for a classic home that can easily adapt to the

changing times.

Designed along Mediterranean architecture, the Diana model home offers a timeless classic that serves as the perfect backdrop to your chosen lifestyle. Its charms are perfectly complemented by Mission Hill's relaxing scenery and placid grounds. A well-planned themed community located in the growing township of Filinvest East County in Antipolo City, its immaculately groomed parks are embellished with benches, wide winding roads and

generously sized lot parcels, making you glad to come home every time. Combining the best of all worlds in one haven, Filinvest East County brings together three world-class communities—Highlands Pointe, Mission Hills and Wood Vale—into one master-planned enclave.

The Casa Cielo model homes were unveiled in simultaneous open houses at the Filinvest East County at Park Spring in San Pedro, Laguna; and in Mountain View at Capitol Hills, Quezon City.

THE CONSTRUCTION Industry Arbitration Commission (Ciac) will accredit its fourth batch of construction arbitrators on July 6 at the Grand Ballroom of New World Renaissance International Hotel, Makati Avenue, Makati City. The 16 arbitrators will take their oaths of office before Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose C. Vitug. The 4th batch of trainees is composed of selected nominees of various professional organizations who successfully completed the 80-hour intensive

training program on construction arbitration. The nominee-participants are lawyer Federico Y. Alipkala, managing partner, Lawyer Group; architect Armando M. Ali, partner and business manager, DACY Architects/Planners Co., engineer Danilo T. Andrade, president, IMAX Construction Management and Consultancy Inc.; lawyer Ma. Clara B. Asuncion, senior associate, Syquia Law Offices; architect Antonio Y. Balde, principal, Balde and Associates, Dean of Architecture, Columbus College; engineer

Ricardo S. Basa, president, DCCD Engineering Corp.; Lawyer Manuel M. Cosico, partner, Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura, Sayoc and Delos Angeles Law Offices; engineer Romeo C. David, vice president, Proconsult Inc.; architect Edilberto Florencio, principal, E.P. Florencio, E.C. Florencio & Associates; engineer Antonio L. Goco, president, Proconsult Inc.; lawyer Daphne T. Jerez, junior partner, Picazo Buyco Tan & Fides Law Offices; engineer Vicente B. Lopez, president, VBL Infrastructure Project Management Consultancy; lawyer Paulino M. Nito, senior manager, Proconsult Inc.; architect Felicitas A. Pio-Roda, president and CEO, Asian Technicos Managers & Consultants Inc.; engineer Ricardo B. San Juan, business developer, LKG Group; and Leandro A. Viloria, principal, UP Kosai.

The members of the training faculty who have been previously accredited as construction arbitrators include lawyers Alfredo F. Tadiar, lecturer on CIAC Rules of Procedure; Casiano F. Tadiar, lecturer on CIAC Rules of Procedure; and Leandro A. Viloria, principal, UP Kosai.

Reyes, lecturer on Introduction to the Construction Work Process, Rights and Authority, Relationships, Obligations and Responsibilities of Key Persons and Professionals, and Monitoring and Control Mechanism; and Eliseo I. Evangelista, lecturer on Ethics/Code of Conduct of the Construction Arbitrators; Dr. Ernesto S. de Castro, lecturer on Construction Disputes in General, Substantive and Procedural Aspects of Arbitration Disputes: An Overview; and the Ciac and Construction Disputes; Custodio O. Parfait, lecturer on Case Handling Problems/Solutions and Mediation; Victor P. Lazatin, lecturer on Applicable Rules of Procedure in Civil Actions; and Revised Rules of Court Construction and Supplementary Effect; former Judge Salvador C. Cegura, lecturer on Ethics/Code of Conduct of the Construction Arbitrators; Dr. Ernesto S. de Castro, lecturer on Construction Disputes in General, Substantive and Procedural Aspects of Arbitration Disputes: An Overview; and the Ciac and Construction Disputes; Felisberto G.L.

Lawyers Jose Grapilon, former Integrated Bar of the Philippines president, and Francis ED. Lim, senior partner of Acra Law were also invited to lecture during the training.

Pag-Ibig Fund seeks Creba help to push housing program

PRESIDENT and chief executive officer Manuel C. Crisostomo of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) has called on members of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) as "our partners in the private sector" to assist in "enabling us to make home acquisition affordable to Pag-Ibig members and make housing finance sustainable."

Crisostomo spoke before the Creba at its 6th monthly business meeting presided by lawyer Manuel M. Serrano last Thursday at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City. A career executive officer (Ceso), Crisostomo has served Pag-Ibig Fund in various positions for the last 16 years.

"We are confident," the Pag-Ibig chief said, "that our continuing dialogue and cooperation, along with the whole-hearted support of President Macapagal and Secretary Defensor, can only result in the fulfillment of our shared vision." Secretary Michael Defensor is chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and presidential adviser on housing.

As its major advocacy, Creba has packaged a comprehensive home finance system with a large pool of funds to respond to the housing needs of both members and nonmembers of the Pag-Ibig Fund, Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System. It seeks primary and secondary home mortgage financing to undertake a continuing and viable system aimed at providing some 400,000 housing units yearly, especially for the low-



CRISOSTOMO (with microphone) responds to questions during the Creba monthly business meeting at the Hotel Intercontinental. With him, from left, are lawyer Serrano; Rep. Eduardo C. Zalica (Paranaque City), Creba executive vice president; lawyer Luis B. Pangilinan Jr., VP for external affairs, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and overall chair, Creba sports-fellowship committee.

income and underprivileged homeless Filipinos.

Creba has been calling on the government to adopt this comprehensive approach to housing finance and mount an aggressive and systematic housing program amid an increasing backlog of housing units. The shortage is now estimated at 4.5 million units nationwide.

During a recent meeting between President Macapagal and business leaders, Creba national president Charlie V. Goyane had reiterated the chamber's call

for a "total, systematic and long-term approach" to the crisis of homelessness.

Last month, Creba signed an agreement with National Housing Authority general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan for Creba members to undertake joint-venture socialized housing projects with the NHA for lower-income families. Pamintuan viewed the NHA-Creba agreement as part of the President's "healing mission" under the government's program for the poor and the underprivileged sector.

In his speech, Crisostomo said Pag-Ibig has forged housing agreements with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and the local government units of Batangas and Pasig as well as the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. The pension fund has also enlisted five developers to carry out the DILG-PNP housing program for 45,000 units under a P4.2-million sinking fund.

Pag-Ibig Fund has also put up a special housing loan facility for overseas Filipino workers and a housing loan program for middle-income members, and revived the direct developmental loan program for developers, and the Pag-Ibig City Program to provide a ready inventory of completed quality housing units at more affordable prices.

Crisostomo informed Creba the city program will lower project financing costs for participating companies seeking housing for their workers as a joint venture with Pag-Ibig, providing faster investment turnaround. This, he said, will enable developers to increase their housing production and thus lower housing packages for applicants.

Pag-Ibig is also aggressively promoting its overseas program's housing loan benefits for overseas workers with maximum loan upgraded from P500,000 to P2 million. The agency is planning a marketing tie-up with developers in selling housing inventories to these workers. Pag-Ibig overseas offices will do the brokering and marketing for the accredited developer.



WHERE LIFE IS COMPLETE

A breathtaking prelude that takes you to a luxurious setting reminiscent of Italian Renaissance era where a complete lifestyle living awaits you and your family. Villaggio Ignatius is the ideal residential village in Gen. Trias, Cavite. It is owned and developed by Earth + Style Corp., the lifestyle property developer that is committed to enhance the quality of life of its customers.

World's top maker of PVC windows, doors now in RP

Veka of Germany, the world's No. 1 manufacturer of PVC windows and doors, recently introduced its complete product line into the market through its local partner Eurovek Phils. Inc.

Veka window and door systems are manufactured from impact-modified uPVC-base material specifically formulated to provide high-impact resistance to chemical corrosion and weathering. The frames are beautifully designed and easy to maintain.

Since 1969, Veka AG has been adorning homes all over the world

in perfect profile. Its quest in providing only the best quality uPVC windows and doors as well as excellent service continues unabated. Veka was tasked by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to design and manufacture PVC doors and windows for space shuttles and space stations.

Veka products are tested by international authorities to ensure compliance with relevant standards which earned for the company the honor of a DINS ISO 9001 certification.

Crown Asia gives all-out to brokers

FOR THIS wife and mother, her lifestyle and her home were the foundation of how she established herself as one of the top brokers for Crown Asia.

Liza Schneider is the first to admit that she has a certain partiality toward Crown Asia's properties having personally experienced what it is like to be a client of this top developer of master-planned subdivisions.

The Schneiders have a modest home in Cottonwood Heights, one of the premiere subdivisions of Crown Asia in the fast-growing city of Antipolo. Cottonwood Heights is master-planned to have an American-country-side ambience and lifestyle. Its location and the masterful blending of the subdivision's development with the natural beauty of the Antipolo countryside assure virtually pollution-free surroundings.

As she talks to clients, Schneider inevitably starts relating the life they live. As a resident of Cottonwood Heights, I could vouch for the quality of the houses," Liza says, noting that because they live in the same subdivision as the houses and lots they were



SCHNEIDER

selling, it was easier to connect with their clients.

Liza, a mother of two, said that aside from the obvious advantage of using their personal experiences when they talk to clients, she also points out the all-out support that Crown Asia gives to its sales network.

Crown Asia has carefully thought through the different levels and types of support for their business partners. As the property firm's officials point out that Crown Asia's efforts, although crucial for the sales network to achieve a measure of success, are not the primary reasons for

this accomplishment.

"To succeed in selling real estate you will need the marketing support of your developer," stresses Crown Asia chief operating officer Edgardo G. Santos. But, he further adds, "the bottom line is the effort and hard work and that personal touch that our sales managers, property consultants and business managers put in."

"We are staffed with young, dynamic and talented people who have embraced our ethic of working hard and long hours to make sure our sales networks are fully assisted. This in turn inspires our business partners to work even harder," says Santos.

Crown Asia's marketing endeavors have also helped them sell more and she has only prides for the realty developer's

employees who are more than willing to help their sellers. Another aspect that has helped Crown Asia's business partners is the holding of regular selling and marketing seminars organized by the property developer as part of its efforts to spur sales.

Liza says the support of Crown Asia has allowed them the luxury of being able to manage their own hours and "believe it or not gives us more time for ourselves and our children."

Those who wish to venture on their own in real estate sales, Schneider says, have to start small "like I did and it helps when you get family and friends to give you word of mouth

advertising and most of all, know the property you are selling. In my case, since we like our home in Cottonwood Heights, our experiences were our best points for selling.

Your Total Solution to any Waterproofing Problem

FLEXSEAL™

Elastomeric Paint

Total waterproofing protection for walls, roofs & other general waterproofing requirements



SUPERSEAL

Cementitious Waterproofing Coating

Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures

CERAMICOAT

Elastomeric Insulating Paint

For insulating and waterproofing of all types of roofing, walls and floors

from the most trusted name in waterproofing:

CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.

1210 JOSE ALACAN SANTOS AV. METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Tel. No. 252-6511 up to 252-6519 or 252-6520; Fax No. 252-6510

Website: www.campbridge.com

Distributor for Mindanao: Lizardo

DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)

AB Tamarind Ave. Dagupan, Tel. No. (075) 423-4111 to 424-22-0477

Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:

CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO. INC.

4th Floor S. G. Abellana St., Cebu City Tel. No. (032) 524-7610

AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Polished & Unpolished GRANITE TILES ON SALE

AT CERAMIC PLAZA

THE MOST TILES AT THE BEST PRICES

GRANITE TILE SIZE	POLISHED	UNPOLISHED
30 cm X 30 cm (12" X 12")	P45.00	P25.00
40 cm X 40 cm (16" X 16")	P70.00	P40.00

Available at these 3 branches

E. RODRIGUEZ BRANCH

113 E. RODRIGUEZ AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
TEL: 732-1906

CERAMIC PLAZA

410 ESPANA, E. RODRIGUEZ AVENUE,
PCBD COMPOUND, DUEZON, ILOILO CITY
TEL: 321-1144

MUNOZ BRANCH

201 MUNOZ, MUNOZ, RIZAL
TEL: 251-1111

ALMANZA, LAS PINAS BRANCH

16, 17 & 18, 18th Street, Las Pinas, Metro Manila
TEL: 722-1111

ALL BRANCHES OPEN ON SUNDAYS

8:30 AM TO 5:30 PM

EXTENDED STORE HOURS: 8:30 AM TO 7:00 PM DAILY

MANILA
168 J. Abad Santos Ave.
Pasig City Tel. No. 847-3859 to 848-1842

MAKATI
12th & 13th Flrs., Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 847-3859 to 848-1842

QUEZON CITY
16th & 17th Flrs., Rockwell Center, Quezon City Tel. No. 847-3859 to 848-1842

PARANAQUE CITY
16th & 17th Flrs., Rockwell Center, Paranaque City Tel. No. 847-3859 to 848-1842

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES

BATANGAS
Santo Domingo, Batangas
Tel. No. 321-1111

DAVAO CITY
Davao City Tel. No. 222-1111

GENERAL MINDANAO
Davao City Tel. No. 222-1111

IGP
General Santos City Tel. No. 222-1111

LEGAZPI CITY
Legazpi City Tel. No. 222-1111

LUZON
Quezon City Tel. No. 847-3859 to 848-1842

NAVAL
Naval, Zambales Tel. No. 222-1111

PALEST
Palawan Tel. No. 222-1111

SAN JOSE
San Jose, Tarlac Tel. No. 222-1111

SARANGANI
General Santos City Tel. No. 222

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASCIO TAU, MAKATI CITY
Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th Flr., Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th Flr.
OTATHUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
Bldg. 811-136, 8th flr., Bldg. 811-136, 8th flr.
MAIL: CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr., Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr.
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., GUINNESS CITY
Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr., Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr.
MAG MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr., Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr.
TRINITY BLDG., 658 T.M. KATIAV ST., GUINNESS, MANILA
Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr., Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr.
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr., Bldg. 89725-57000, 8th flr.
e-mail address: adsl@msn.com.ph

RATES

P230 per column centimeter

P65 per line

(All prices exclusive of B-VAT)

for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon
Sundays 12:00 noon
Day before publication every Thursday

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIANS/SURGEON

SKIN PEEL & WHITENING
WARTS PIMPLES SCARS
HAIRLOSS EX SWEAT WD STO
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 5am-7pm

STD & PROSTATE CLINIC
Manila 5217069
Cebu (032)2337727

VOSTIC CLINIC 18175071
MOTOCROSS BLDG 2178 PIANO
MKT 9-2pm DR GATAN

DENTAL

EXTRACTION - Dr. L. Benedicto
419 Libertad Psy City 1814195

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS
P400/sht Autocad Drafting
Call 028619156/(036)5643001

HEALTH/FITNESS

BE SLIM 2443937

B. ANGEL CARES 4 ASSIST-PHONE
PERSONS etc 2075995

Slimming Program 621-0688

MASSAGE

30% Crp 6477491 ask?Charf
ASK JAMES MAT 24 HR SERVICES
8821874 100% HDSME

Ask DJ 0919-5973709 (M)

Escort Massuer Vintz 8513462
H-H-M-S MALE 7314018

Male #16 Palawan 7320859

MASSAGE (0919)433-3191 GEM

VP-MF-0312373 09193691771

REFRESCOLOGY

D'Millenium M/F T-9347633
REFLX 081235568/8881987

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LALUZ 5261218/78
WESTERN TUTORIAL 7521758

HOUSING/HOME

A-1 MAIDS 8330946/47
BEST MAID 711602/7115039

Help Agency 5323376/5321947

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

*CHEAP LEAHAY 9200424-

CLOSED ALJM VAN 8272570

L-BAHAY 8383742/547599

LBAHAY 7113548

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

JPAT BAHAY 713-0778/716-9177

L PAT BAHAY 824-1227

*LIPAT-731-6833

REAL ESTATE

QUEZON CITY

LOCATION!! LOCATION!!

Malamig cor Matamik Sts.

or CC Hwy 1st Claret Sch,

Government Offices, Guio

Homes, Hospitals, adjacent

Grocery and other

business establishments

747m² w/old hse

Contact: RVRONQUILLO

9410226-9412873

HOUSE & LOT

Makati

House & Lot 4 Sale 465m²

1687/n# Masal Ave. 890-1832

MANDALUYONG

Capinayao Pasig 891-3405

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

GUINNESS CITY

LOT

ROOM & BOARD

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

GUINNESS CITY

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

SECOND (2nd) INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID
FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF THE FOLLOWING:

a. Contract Package No. 12: Four (4) Diesel Locomotives (Shared Axles) with Overhead Flat Cabinet, 10' x 12' x 10' Cab, 12' x 10' x 10' Cab, 12' x 10' x 10' Cab, Lateral Frame (On Tractor) with Diesel Engine Cabinet and Open Flat Sheetbox.

b. Contract Package No. 13: Contract Package No. 12: Diesel Locomotives (Shared Axles) with Overhead Flat Cabinet, 10' x 12' x 10' Cab, 12' x 10' x 10' Cab, Lateral Frame (On Tractor) with Diesel Engine Cabinet and Open Flat Sheetbox.

c. Contract Package No. 14: Contract Package No. 13: Diesel Locomotives (Shared Axles) with Overhead Flat Cabinet, 10' x 12' x 10' Cab, 12' x 10' x 10' Cab, Lateral Frame (On Tractor) with Diesel Engine Cabinet and Open Flat Sheetbox.

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply, delivery and assembly of Diesel Locomotives and locomotives for electric railways, are invited to apply for pre-qualification and bidding for Contract Package Nos. 12, 13, 14 and 15 for the new LSP Headquarters Building in Manila, Manila with the following schedule:

July 5 to 10, 2001
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

July 13, 2001
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

August 20, 2001
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

September 17, 2001
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

October 1, 2001
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

November 1, 2001
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

December 1, 2001
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

January 5, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

February 2, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

March 2, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

April 6, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

May 4, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

June 1, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

July 6, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

August 3, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

September 7, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

October 5, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

November 1, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

December 6, 2002
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

January 3, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

February 7, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

March 6, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

April 3, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

May 1, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

June 5, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

July 3, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

August 7, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

September 4, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

October 2, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

November 6, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

December 4, 2003
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

January 1, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

February 5, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

March 3, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

April 7, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

May 5, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

June 2, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

July 7, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

August 4, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

September 1, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

October 5, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

November 2, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

December 7, 2004
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

January 4, 2005
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

February 1, 2005
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

March 7, 2005
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

April 4, 2005
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

May 2, 2005
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

June 6, 2005
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

July 4, 2005
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
12:00 PM

August 1, 2005
8:00 AM

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TANO, MAKATI CITY
Tel. 897-3335 Direct Fax 897-4800
G/F ST. ANTHONY BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
Tel. 8-1420 Fax 8-1420 Tel. 8-1420
2nd Flr., CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
Tel. 2-9005 Fax 2-9005
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
Tel. 635-0220 Fax 637-2008
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 556 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
Tel. 537-5337 Fax 536-0213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
Tel. 850-6463 Fax 850-6463
e-mail address: macth_classified@inquirer.net.ph

OBITUARIES

P230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE

for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

JOSE V. TECSON, SR.

Former President and General Manager of
Transcon and C.T.I.

*Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord
on June 30, 2001 at the age of 81.*

His loving wife Nena H. Tecson; children Peping and Dulce Tecson, Nita and Manny Pilares, Rudy and Corrine Tecson, Eddie and Pamela Tecson, Maribel and Dennis Sindico, Vicki and Nandy Jayme; grandchildren Joey, Rico and Jaime, Emjay, Jayem, Jaypee and Peejay, Randy, Raffy, Martha and Ramon, Michael and Stephen, Dindin, DJ, Mico and Anton, Katrina, Kristine and Katherine; relatives and friends request the readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the White Plains Chapel, White Plains Subdivision, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, July 5, 2001 at 8:00 AM at the White Plains Chapel. Interment follows at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want,
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for You are with me, Your rod and Your staff, They comfort me...
Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Psalm 23:1,4,6

EDWARD ROBERT C. YU

*Died in the grace of our Lord on July 1, 2001
at the age of 54.*

His beloved wife Evelyn; children Rodney and Roselynn; sisters Georgiana C. Yu, Linda Y. Walker, Diana Y. Chua, and Lydia Y. Yu; nephews, nieces, and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains are at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong.

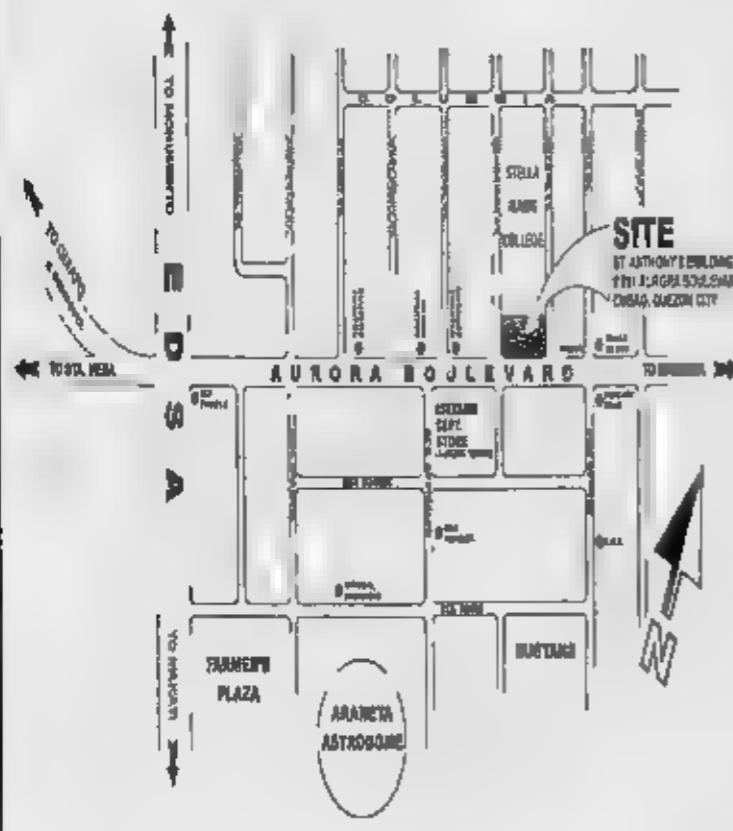
Interment will be on Thursday, July 5, 2001 at Christ the King Church, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City after the 9:30 a.m. memorial service at Santuario de San Jose

Please omit flowers.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.

For inquiries, please call
421-1420 or 421-0343.



ROSARIO "CHADI" ROSALES

*Peacefully joined our Lord on July 1, 2001
at the age of 73.*

Her loving nephew and niece Jun and Nina Malvar; and granddaughter Ria Malvar; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 4, 2001, at the Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 PM Mass.

JUANA BALDOVINO ALANDY

of Taytay, Quezon

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 30, 2001
at the age of 88.*

Her children and their spouses Tally and Cora, Tally (†) and Totting (†), Baby and Pepito (†), Mel and Jim, Leslie and Emma, Cora and Pio, Mike and Marivi, Chit and Bonnie; grandchildren and her great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ermita Chapel.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 4, 2001 at the Lovely Paradise Cemetery after the 9:30 Mass at Minor Basilica Church, Taytay, Quezon.

POTENCIANO T. ILUSORIO

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 28, 2001 at the age 88.*

The bereaved members of his family, relatives, friends, associates and staff request for your prayers to guide him through his final journey.

His mortal remains were cremated on June 28, 2001 in accordance with his wishes.

Interment will follow after the 10:30 a.m. Requiem Mass at the Baguio Cathedral on July 3, 2001.

*Please omit flowers. In lieu of flowers,
donations to the Convent of the Most Blessed
Sacrament (Pink Sisters, Baguio City)
or the Ophthalmological Foundation
of the Philippines will be appreciated.*



*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.*

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

• Copy of Death Certificate • Any identification document ID

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Card of Thanks

The family of

A. Timothy Peterson

(January 21, 1940 – June 16, 2001)

His wife — Patricia B. Licuanan
children — Carlo and Andrea
brothers and their families — Anthony and Lisa Thomas, Jan and David Fred, Mary and Sarah mother-in-law — Virginia Benitez-Licuanan brother-in-law and family — Francisco, Victoria and Ana

thanks all who offered their prayers and comfort.

You have eased the pain of parting and helped us accept God's plan for our beloved Tim — and for us.

CESAR MAGSAYSAY GARCIA

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 30, 2001 at the age of 94.*

His loving wife Josefina Posadas Garcia; children Steve & Jo, Nino & Lalle, Vic & Yolie, Tess & Ernie; grandchildren and great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel A, G, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, July 4, 2001 at La Funeraria Paz Crematorium at 1:00 p.m. Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m.

BONIFACIO
RIDGE

A toast to the top

Tuesday, July 3, 2001 marks another milestone for Bonifacio Ridge as it celebrates the topping out of its Phase 1 towers, Cypress Point and Spanish Bay. A prime Global City address, Bonifacio Ridge is a residential project of Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation. Blending its dramatic panorama, together with its state-of-the-art facilities, Bonifacio Ridge is designed to be FBDC's testament to how life should be... boundless, beautiful, brilliant and bountiful.

Now with the structural framework finished, **Bonifacio Ridge** is another step closer to fulfilling its vision of showcasing **the way home should be**. So let's all toast to the top!

For more information, contact the Bonifacio Sales and Marketing Group at 887-1691 / 555-1251.



LIFESTYLE

CHILO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor



Why women should strength-train

WELL AND GOOD



Tina
Aboitiz Juan

get fatigued.

Strength training coupled with flexibility training (stretching exercises) can improve posture by making sure that muscles are balanced. For example, stooped, rounded shoulders can be improved by strengthening the muscles at the back of the shoulders and between the shoulder blades while stretching the muscles in the chest and the front of the shoulders. Bad posture does not only increase the risk of injury in the lower back, it also detracts from the beauty of a woman.

Physiological benefits

These are the health benefits you will not see right away and are not obvious to other people:

- Strength training can help prevent osteoporosis because strong muscles equal strong bones. Scientists believe that when a muscle contracts against resistance, the pulling force it exerts on the bones causes the bones to become denser and stronger. Strength training also helps improve balance so unnecessary falls are prevented.

• It can help an older woman cope with osteoarthritis because strong muscles are better able to absorb the stress around the affected joints.

• Although an aerobic type of exercise (walking, cycling, dancing, jogging, etc.) is the most common exercise recommendation for people with high blood pressure, strength training done properly and safely has also been found to help normalize blood pressure.

• Strength training can reduce total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol (the "bad" kind) and improve the ratio of total cholesterol to HDL (the "good" kind).

• Postmenopausal women tend to accumulate



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The benefits of strength training go far beyond firm muscles and a shapely body. It's also one of the ways to live out the golden years in a dignified manner

yourself. When you are feeling physically weak, you also feel emotionally and mentally down. Strengthening your body helps to strengthen your mind and emotions.

Independent golden years

This is the one benefit of strength training I always keep in mind when I lift weights. Since I come from a family of people who live long, I will probably make it to my late 90s. For so long as my mind remains intact, I want to make sure I will be a strong and healthy old woman who doesn't need anyone to give her a bath or help her out of a chair or feed her. Strength training is one of the ways I am going to be able to live out my golden years in an independent, dignified manner.

Attention all gym owners and managers: Life-fitness Academy is back. This two-day seminar will be held on July 12 and 13 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. David Welsh, one of the industry's leading management presenters, will talk on "Creating a Winning Team, Success Through Effective People Management." Call Doris at 826-0751/2781.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. is holding a Red Cross CPR Certification on July 21 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman campus. CPR certification is a requirement for those taking the American Council on Exercise Examinations on Oct. 27. Call Lorna Piazon at 842-0567 for reservations since space is limited to only 36 people.

For past articles and exercises, visit my website at www.tinajuanfitness.com

STRENGTH training is exercise using some type of resistance (dumbbells, barbells, machines, rubber bands, body weight, etc.) to build strong muscles. Some people believe only men need to improve their strength, but the truth is women can benefit from having a stronger body, too. In fact, the benefits of strength training go far beyond firm muscles and a shapely body. There are many surprising health benefits you wouldn't expect from lifting weights (the most common form of strength training).

Aesthetic benefits

These are the beauty-related benefits. Strength training gives you a tighter, leaner body because a firm muscle is more compact and dense compared to a flabby muscle.

Strength training is an essential part of a weight-control program because the more muscle mass you have, the faster your metabolism. Muscle tissue is more metabolically active than fat tissue. In other words, it burns more calories. One of the reasons women gain weight faster as they get older is muscle atrophy. Muscles that are not challenged by strength training become smaller with age. Smaller muscles means less calories burned every day.

Although a woman cannot hope to increase muscle size as dramatically as a man (women have very little testosterone, the male sex hormone), applying the appropriate strength-training techniques can put a little muscle bulk when it is needed to create a more symmetrical figure. For example, if a woman has narrow shoulders and big hips, the shoulders can become a little wider so the hips don't look so big. Conversely, if a woman has thin legs, strength training can make them a little fuller so the lower body matches the bigger upper body.

The secret is basically in the amount of weight you lift and how many times you lift it. To make a muscle bigger, choose a weight that you can only lift for six to eight times before your muscles get tired. For firmer muscles without an increase in size, lift a weight light enough that you can lift it 12-20 times before your muscles

The aging process and menopause

BY MILA S. ALORA

HAVING hot flushes and night sweats? Irritable most of the time? Depressed for no reason at all? Cannot remember even the simple task done a few minutes ago or the name of the household help? These are a few of the many health complaints of women aged 45 and up.

Alumni and sorority reunions are now filled with women comparing notes on one's health, the various illnesses affecting the bones, breasts and uterus, the memory pills being taken and the many effects of menopause in their daily lives.

But then men have the same thing, too. Only it is called by a different name—andropause, at times called "midlife crisis." It is often characterized by a decrease in the sex drive, crankiness and at times, lack of energy in doing anything at all.

Both sexes are going through a climacteric period, which is a normal part of the aging process. Climacteric refers to the time when both males and females have declining hormonal functions. For women, it encompasses the time before the total stop of menstruation, and for men, it is androgen deficiency.

What exactly is menopause? It is the time when a woman stops her monthly bleeding or menstruation for a year, and changes occur in the body—both before and after. The ovaries that produce important hormones needed to stay healthy suddenly come to a halt. These hormones are estrogen, progesterone and testosterone.

Menopause has three phases. Perimenopause begins in the middle to late 40s and can last 5-7 years and monthly period becomes irregular. Menopause marks the end of monthly bleeding and a major decline in estrogen production. Postmenopause consists of early and postmenopause, which can be five years or so after menopause. The lack of estrogen leads to silent physical changes detrimental to one's health if left unchecked.

In general, most women have menopause between the ages of 45-55. For Filipinas, the mean age is 47 and largely hereditary.

What to do

"Growing old gracefully and healthy are the dreams of everyone past the age of 40, whether male or female. Certainly not impossible but would take into account a lot of work and determination," said Dr. Joan Tan-Garcia, section chief of the Climacteric Clinic or Menopause Clinic of St. Luke's Medical Center, which opened in 1998.

Dr. Tan-Garcia pointed out that for women undergoing menopause, there are important considerations. These are the physical makeup of individuals, the family's medical history, lifestyle and overall attitude toward aging.

As head of one of the first private climacteric clinics in the Philippines, Dr. Tan-Garcia has seen the growing acceptance among modern Filipinas of the help offered by science. This was shown by the increased attendance and enthusiastic response of women who have gone through the free quarterly forum conducted by the clinic and being well-informed on the subject through mass communications. There are also invitations by various women's groups including clubs for the clinic to give



educational talks on menopause.

An average of 20-30 female patients visit the SLMC's Menopause Clinic per month. For a comprehensive care program, the package cost is P6,800 for outpatients, which includes exams, lab tests and counseling.

Before any medicine is prescribed to any patient, a complete physical examination is done to prevent any contraindication. At the same time, thorough interviews are done as to one's personal and family medical history.

More than 13 tests are conducted. Prominent among them are mammography, dexta (X-ray of the bone), complete blood count, ultrasound (transvaginal for the sexually active and married women, F2 transrectal with pelvic for those who are not, P3 of gall bladder and liver for those hysterectomized), lipid profile, alkaline phosphatase, SGPT and calcium.

The decreased production of female hormones may lead to osteoporosis; an increase in cardiovascular diseases; the once taut and thick skin becomes thinner, drier and wrinkles appear; urine retention becomes difficult with the relaxation of the abdominal and urinal tract muscles. The temporary change in body temperature causes the common complaints of hot flushes and night sweats.

Others may suffer psychological problems such as mood swings where Mommy suddenly becomes "high blood na naman" if not "masungit" and Daddy gets to be easily irritated by trifles matters. There is depression and the feeling of being unloved which may cause sleeplessness and fatigue.

As to the recommended treatments, Dr. Tan-Garcia mentioned the use of HRT, a change of diet and lifestyle. Drinking 10-12 glasses of water, quitting smoking, exercising, watching one's weight and eating less of red meat will go a long way in alleviating the discomforts brought by menopause.

For those who want to go natural, eating *taho* or any soya-based product helps, like what the Okinawans do. In a seven-year study titled The Okinawa Program by Dr. Bradley Wilcox Jr. and featured on the "Oprah" show, Okinawans have a daily intake of *taho* and drink tea at least six times a day, which make the inhabitants of the tiny Japanese island free of the symptoms of menopause.

HRT side effects

Addressing the concerns of many as to the side effects of Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) like cancer and weight gain, the advantages far outweigh

Growing old

gracefully

and healthy

takes a lot

of work and

determination

Beauty starts with a hot shower bath.

New Ariva Cristina Fully Automatic Water Heater with Built-In ELCB

FREE Installation!

PLDT

724-59-07

BAYANTEL

415-93-78

ARIVA
WATER HEATERS

P705.17 x 12

Customer Care Unit Tel. No. (832) 849-0649

Care Corner

LPG in its natural form
is odorless and
colorless. But for
safety reasons, an
odorant is mixed with
LPG so you can
literally sense danger
caused by leaks.

A caring reminder from

TOTALGAS
LPG



Customer Care Unit Tel. No. (832) 849-0649

IT'S OUR NATURE TO CARE.

TOTAL

ISSUE A CHECK AND SEE DOUBLE. CALL 878-8787 NOW!

Introducing

iCheck

The checking account from iBank with carbonized checks for error-free recording.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits Insured up to P100,000. Member MICELTA Network.



A soft spot for tough customers
iBank
International Exchange Bank
iBank Exchange Bldg.
142 Amorsolo St., Legazpi Village, Makati City
www.ibank.com.ph

Danny dugong makes his pitch

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

LIKE all mammals, dugongs or sea cows breathe air through their lungs. They also breastfeed their young. Unlike the whale, they don't venture out into the open sea. Instead, these gentle creatures thrive in warm, shallow coastal areas where they rest by day and graze on sea grass by night. They swim alone or in groups and can be quite playful and affectionate with one another. For nearly 60 million years, they lived in peace having no known predators until—you guessed it—people came into the scene.

Through Hong Kong-Shanghai Banking Corp.'s "Hug Me, Save Me" campaign, mallers, especially kids, are beginning to learn more about this endangered species. For every P300-purchase at any Body Shop outlet, shoppers using their HSBC credit cards can choose from among 10 cuddly dugong characters for free.

Each stuffed toy (never mind if some are way off the bluish-gray color of a dugong) comes with a small card that provides a tidbit of information about the animal. What's more, HSBC makes an automatic donation in behalf of the shopper to the bank's Dugong Conservation Program. Those who choose to pay in cash or use other credit cards can also bring home a collectible for P100. The money they give goes to the program as well.

There's Dexter clad in a black basketball shirt and holding an orange ball with his right flipper. Dugongs, the card says, use their flippers to hug and touch objects with, even the anchor lines of boats. They can also be seen tumbling under water or scratching their backs on a huge rock.

Then there are sweethearts Danny and Demi. Thanks to a pair of built-in snaps on their flippers, the couple can be arranged in a hugging position. Like best friends Dindy and Dana, each figure is sold separately.

Or what about cool dude Dave in a tie-dyed shirt and clasping a surfboard? Dugongs are among the most widely distributed "sirens" in the world, antedating the legend of Dysebel by several million years. Their cousins, the more famous manatee, another threatened sirenian, are found in the Western Hemisphere.

Shy mammals

Full-grown dugongs can grow up to three meters and weigh up to 350 kilos. They feed exclusively on sea grass, with adults mowing down close to 300 kilos of grass a day. Despite their size, however, they rarely show themselves to landlubbers. These shy marine mammals widely distributed along coastal areas across the Pacific and Indian Oceans usually swim away when disturbed.

Dugongs can live up to 60 years. They usually give birth to just one calf every three to five years. The gestation period can take up to 13 months. Since a mommy dugong's breasts are located under each of its flipper, the mother appears to hug its young while nursing it. Shared parenting is unheard of.

Records show dugongs thrived all over the Philippines, even in the once-pristine waters of Manila Bay. These days only the coasts off Palawan, Eastern Luzon, Southern and Eastern Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago hold viable populations of dugong.

Indeed, the presence or absence of such creatures is a clear indication of the state of our seas. Expectedly, pollution and dynamite fishing have contributed greatly to the animal's near extinction.

Like dolphins, not a few dugongs have drowned while struggling to free themselves from fishing nets. Those caught alive are often slaughtered for their meat. Past attempts to bottle-feed orphaned dugongs have often failed. Some dugongs die from indirect causes. Erosion, for instance, deprives sea grass of much-needed sunlight and oxygen to thrive.

Global concerns

"Education and the environment are two of HSBC's global concerns," says Laine Santana, HSBC's director for corporate communications. Apart from various education-related projects, the bank has an ongoing environmental-awareness program dubbed "Save the Seas" based in Samal Island off the coast of Davao.

"One of the most important but also most neglected resources in the country is the sea," adds Santana. HSBC found this ironic since the Philippines is an archipelago, its people dependent on the sea's bounties.

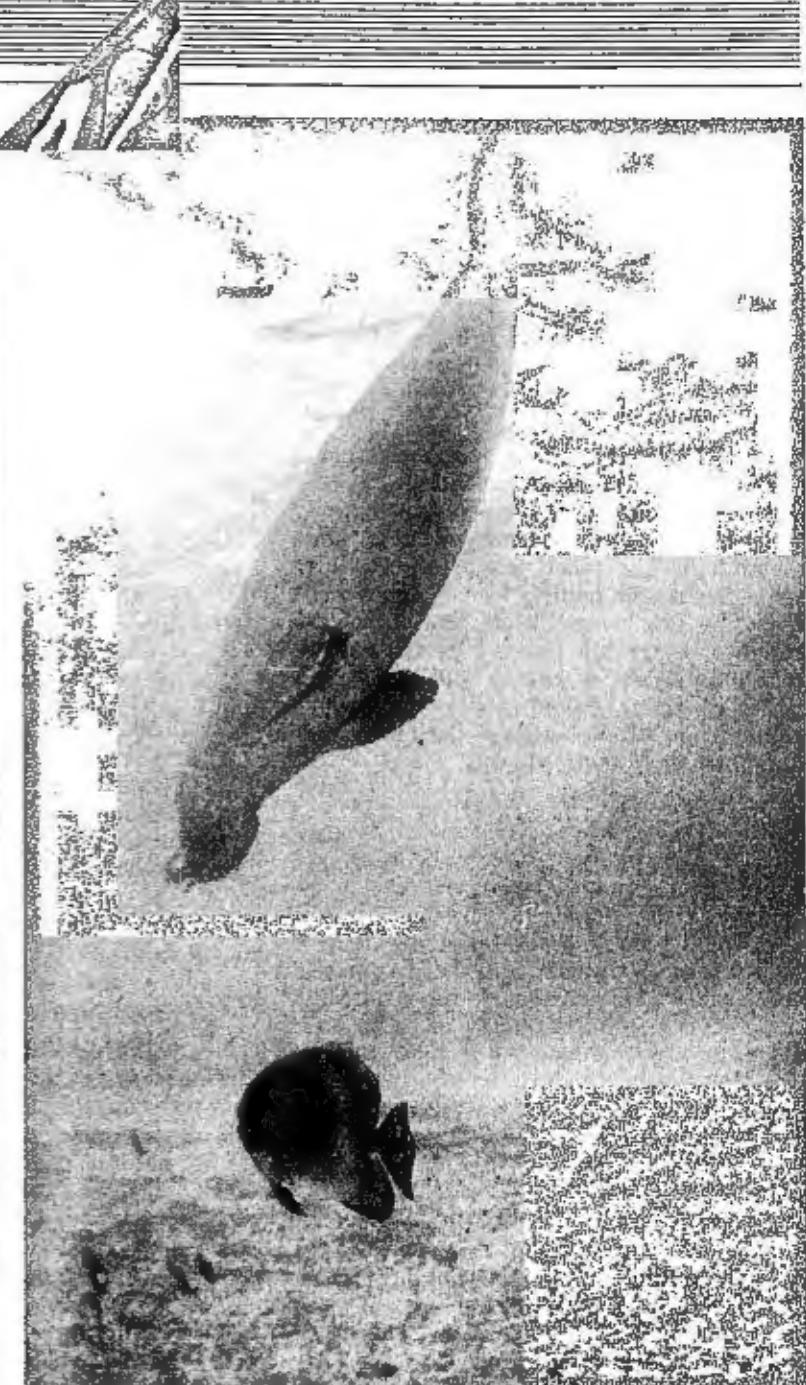
Of course, awareness generated by such adorable mascots has its limits. To put some teeth to its project, HSBC is funding a P2-million dugong conservation program on Green Island Bay off the northern coast of Palawan. The bank has tapped the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) to implement it.

Arnel Andrew Yaptinchay, director of WWF Phils., identified the area where a sizable number of dugongs has been spotted. "It's impossible to determine how many dugongs are still left in the country," he admits.

Yaptinchay, a licensed veterinarian, wouldn't



MEEK AND MILD. Rescued dugongs, such as this calf pictured with AA Yaptinchay, are sent back to the wilds as soon as they're ready.



BLUE WORLD. The once-numerous dugongs are now threatened with extinction.

Through HSBC's campaign to save dugongs from extinction, kids and adults learn more about these gentle creatures



HUG ME, SAVE ME. Dugong collectible Danny and Demi embrace each other like you and me.

PHOTOS BY ERNESTO BILBIMENTO

be surprised if their present number continues to dwindle unless some drastic measures are put into place. Unfortunately, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has yet to declare a dugong sanctuary to help protect and promote public awareness about the animal.

"Although they're not a targeted species," he adds, "some people still hunt the dugong for its supposed medicinal properties." Ironically, hunters have begun losing interest in the dugong. Why? They're becoming harder to find. "It's not worth their time and effort anymore."

Conservation measures

"Our main objective is to drum up awareness on the dugong," says Santana. "We can't do this without the direct involvement of the area's fisherfolk."

Aside from tapping the local government's assistance, Yaptinchay and his team will try to get the community involved. Rather than dictate a litany of dos and don'ts, which is bound to fail anyway, they'll try to get as much feedback as possible from various sectors.

After all, biodiversity is such a big word, its supposed benefits or effects drowned out by the everyday concerns of subsistence fishermen. "We can't just go there and arbitrarily establish a protected area," says Yaptinchay. "Remember, the bay has become so much a part of their lives. They need to be given a say in determining their future. Only then will they be able to fully appreciate such measures in conservation."

It pays to start 'em young. Based on Yaptinchay's experience as a former director of DENR's marine turtle conservation project, one of the most

effective ways to reach out to adults is through their children. Hopefully, these informed youngsters will become the future custodians of the environment. Most teachers are usually open to environmental education as well.

"The project's success and long-term sustainability will depend on the community," says Santana. The project will run for one year beginning this month. "We will try to be as flexible as possible," adds Yaptinchay. "Hopefully, Green Island Bay will become a protected area in the future."

It wouldn't hurt, of course, if Yaptinchay and his team bring loads of stuffed toys to the site, four hours away by land from Puerto Princesa. The kids at Green Island Bay, like their counterparts in the malls, will be informed as well as delighted to have such dugong collectibles.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

When travelling...

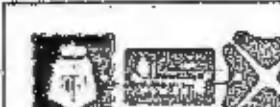


Whether you're on your way to that long-awaited shopping spree...

...or that sudden business trip...

Don't forget to bring your BPI Express Teller International card.
You don't have to worry about carrying too much cash or buying traveller's cheques. You can simply withdraw cash in the currency of whatever country you're in. That's because the Express Teller International card can be used to withdraw in over 500,000 Cirrus ATMs. You're sure to find an ATM just about anywhere, anytime you need cash.

The BPI Express Teller International...



Still haven't gotten around to Thailand, bring your local currency at...



Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.



Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What is MEDICard's hospital-based concept?

MEDICard provides its members the privilege of accessing their required healthcare services at any accredited hospitals within the country. No need to pass through specially designated hospitals before you can be treated. MEDICard, through its network of over 240 hospitals and over 3,000 doctors nationwide, provides you the medical services you need WHERE and WHEN you need them.

Meet your MEDICard Team



The next time you are in the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, look for Dr. Gloria R. Cristal-Luna, MEDICard Medical Coordinator for the said hospital. Dr. Luna is a Medicine graduate from UERMM with residency training in Internal Medicine from the Veteran's Memorial Hospital. She also sub-specializes in Medical Oncology where she received training from UP-PGH. She is a diplomate and fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, European Society of Medical Oncology and a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. This very busy doctor spends her free time with her husband Cesar V. Luna, M.D. and her two children. For consultations, you may visit Doc Luna at room A-17 (R-20) from 3 PM to 5 PM, Mondays to Thursdays and from 10 AM to 12 noon on Saturdays.

New Corporate Member



IBM Solutions Delivery, Inc., one of the leading solutions provider in the information technology industry today signed its corporate agreement with MEDICard for the healthcare program of their employees and dependents last June 28, 2001 at the Grill Restaurant in Libis, Quezon City. (Seated L - R) Ignacio E. Sevilla, III (Division Manager-Sales and ITS Operations), Paul A. Zaldarriaga, (President & Managing Director), Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (MEDICard President), Luis S. Montoya (EVP & GM). (Standing L - R) Laureano F. Francisco, Jr. (ISDI HRD Manager), Jose T. Marcos, (ISDI Division Manager-Management Services), Ma. Louises R. Sacalles, (ISDI Chief Finance Officer), Leah F. Lim (ISDI Sr. HR Coordinator), Amy C. Cayugan (MEDICard Account Executive) and Voltaire R. Victoria (MEDICard Marketing and Sales Manager).

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at Inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.



broad, be sure to pack this along.



BPI Express Teller International

Accepted in over
500,000 Cirrus ATMs in
102 countries worldwide.

or even your
honeymoon abroad...

onal - fully loaded wherever you are!

Express Teller International card? If you're touring Singapore or regular Express Teller Card. You can still withdraw in the 1000 OBS ATMs in Singapore and Thailand.



BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

A tradition of leadership

For more details, call 89-100
(press '0' to speak to a phoneoperator)
or log on to www.bpixpressonline.com

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T.
Licauco



we may at last begin to reform our negative cultural traits and values.

This is the challenge that several readers burred at me after "telling us what the problem is with our Filipino thinking." What do we do next?

They are right. Let's stop talking and criticizing if we can't offer any positive solution. So here are my thoughts on the subject.

We can attack the problem on two levels, the micro or individual basis and the macro or national scale. In both cases, the approach should be multisectoral.

On an individual and social level, we can start discussing these issues about our Filipino mentality, values and consciousness in an honest and objective manner. Let's not start blaming anybody or any group. But start from within. Civic and professional groups should focus attention on these topics during their meetings, rather than concentrate on some political or trivial topics like the peculiar manner an ex-senator enunciates her words or that latest love interest of a particular actress.

The mass media, i.e. the producers and writers of television and radio programs, should create new shows that highlight our typical way of thinking about our country and our people and change these to something positive and worthwhile. Newspaper stories should give more space to positive developments, accomplishments and incidents in our country, rather than to corruption, crime, scandals and other negative news. This may eventually help us change our perception about our society and culture and give us some needed hope.

Doable

On a national scale, I would like to bring out something that has been simmering in my mind for a long, long time, which I believe is "doable," as a former president used to say.

I strongly propose that the government establish a separate and independent Department of Culture rather than lump this function under one huge Department of Education, Culture and Sports as it is right now.

DECs has already a lot of problems to tackle as it is. It can't be burdened with further issues involving culture, not to mention sports. That's why these two last functions are dismaly neglected. The Secretary of Education has simply no more time to attend to them adequately. His hands are already full.

If we have a separate and independent Department of Culture, like what other countries have,

I do not know where we got this attitude of "xenophilia" or love of things foreign to us. This is why even our locally made products cannot compete with foreign ones. Our own people do not patronize our own products. Don't you think there is something wrong with the way we Filipinos think about ourselves?

We seem to have no sense of national pride, no sense of history and no sense of nationhood. We still think like primitive tribesmen, the tribe of Ilocanos, the Igorots, the Cebuanos, the Warays, the Pampangos, the Tagalogas, etc. Even when abroad, Filipinos, in general, do not identify with the whole country. If there are exceptions to this, they are few and far between.

Cultural pygmies

The problem with the current govermental and private cultural efforts is that their activities and objectives are confined to promoting the exotic or outward (even borrowed) culture of the Philippines, but they completely neglect the more basic and more important hidden or esoteric indigenous culture of our people. But unless we bring this out and study it and see its importance to our being Filipinos, we will forever be a cultural pygmy in the eyes of the world.

So I propose that legislation be enacted creating the Department of Culture—separate from and independent of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. And the faster this is done the better for the future of this country.

But whoever is appointed to head this department should have a strong background in the esoteric and indigenous culture of the Philippines, not only a strong sense of nationalism and sense of history for the esoteric or hidden culture is the true measure of any nation's culture, not the outward, mostly borrowed, culture propagated by the traditional purveyors of Philippine culture. Furthermore, its head should have a fixed term of office and should be shielded from political influence and machinations.

These suggestions alone will not bring about an immediate change in our ingrained negative way of thinking, but hopefully it will be the start toward a positive direction and free our people from a feeling of helplessness.

Some people, however, disagree with my proposal. One is my high school classmate who is now a doctor of medicine, a frustrated *balik-bayan*, Dr. Roberto Jimenez (brother of well-known but controversial socialite Baby Arenas). Bobby wrote me to say, "No. Another department will not solve anything. Pinoys are masters in the perversions of things when implemented. Take the Party List System, for example. What would help is if we could send some bad people to jail—including those who did the corrupting."

Another dissenter, a lady listener of my radio program, said, "Change can only come from below, from the grassroots and never from the bureaucracy." They both have a point.

I still believe, however, that the change should come from within each and every Filipino, without exception. If we don't heed this call soon, then may God have mercy on our country and our people.

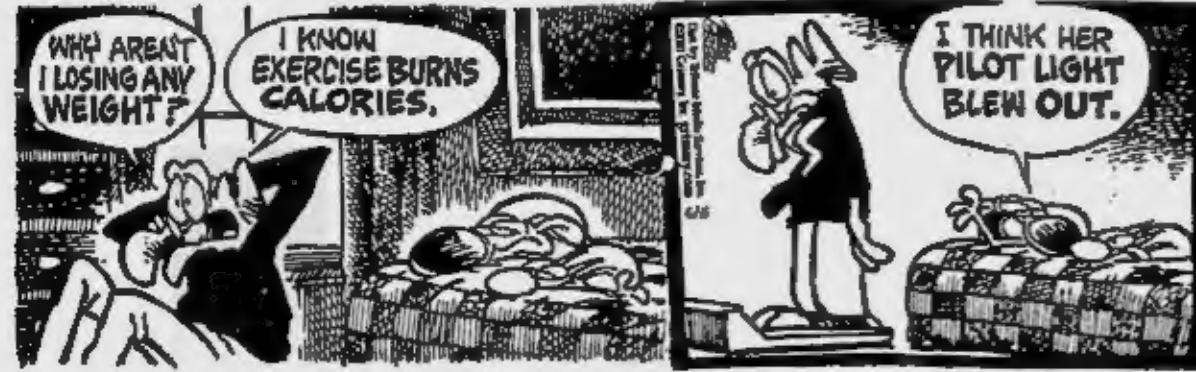
E-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit his website at www.angelfire.com/journal/jlicauco

SLPMC marks 8th year

ST. Luke's Pain Management Centre celebrates its 8th anniversary from July 9-13 that includes activities such as an exhibit and a free clinic. The highlight of the week-long celebration is a lay forum titled "Real People, Real Pain," on July 10, 9 a.m.-12 m at the medical center's second floor conference room. Call St. Luke's Pain Management Centre at 723-0301 local 5416.

COMIC Reliefs

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2001

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

BI GANG

BY ATS11/JEA/FEVG

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Cruise, Laura Branigan, Montel Williams, Aaron Tippin, Toro Stoppard, Dave Barry

Happy Birthday: Take time out to smell the roses. You've been working way too hard. It's time to sit back and review. Decide what will make you happy and go after it. It's your turn to shine, so stop waiting for a time when you don't feel obligated to do for others, for that day will never come. Your numbers: 3, 18, 22, 25, 34, 38

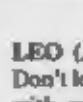
ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be tempted to spend money you don't have. Be careful if you are forced to deal with people who are promising you the world. You need to do a little research before you make a decision.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your best bet will be work today. You can make your point heard if you voice your opinion to superiors. Advancement can be yours for the asking. Don't be afraid to speak your mind.



CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will want to exploit your creative talents. Don't worry if someone doesn't like your style. You have to please yourself when it comes to artistic ventures.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will meet romantic possibilities if you get out with friends. Your ability to be mysterious and enticing will make you difficult to resist.



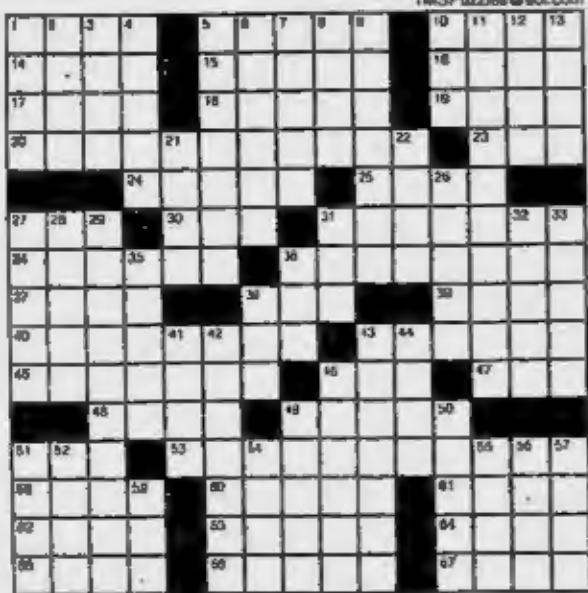
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let someone you live with ruin your mood or your day. Stay calm and focus on getting your chores done. Plan to get together with friends who won't provoke you.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will want to get out with your friends. You need to spend some quality time just reminiscing. You may even want to plan an outing that will include your mate. Travel for pleasure should be on your agenda.

**DAILY CROSSWORD**

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

By D.J. DeChristopher
Staten Island, NY

5/17/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

COSTS	ALDA	DC
OMAHA	COAT	ARIL
LAYER	HALO	LOGO
ARC	THE MILKY WAY	
	HARES	LOSERS
SCENES	SASH	
POET	STAG	LOCKS
ALSO	EATEN	TRIO
TEENS	PASO	HERB
TRIAGE	AMEN	BREAKS
BUTTERFLIES	PS	
ORES	LAIR	HOURLY
NAME	IDLE	ELFIN
ELSA	NETS	SAFES

(2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.)

5/17/01

©2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01

5/17/01